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NEARBY

Fourth wave: Staff crunch may hit preparation

BENGALURU

While the State has claimed that it is well prepared to handle the fourth wave of COVID-19, staff crunch is likely to be a major drawback, as services of 6,463 doctors and other staff outsourced by the Health Department have been discontinued.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

5G service roll-out likely in Aug.-Sept.

Plans afoot for spectrum auction in June: Minister

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The government is confident of resolving issues related to high spectrum pricing with the industry, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday, adding that everything was "more or less" on track for auction of spectrum, including 5G airwaves, by June 2022.

The commercial rollout of 5G services could be expected from August-September 2022, the Minister added.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

"The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India [TRAI], in its recommendations, has suggested some changes in prices. The next step is approval of the Digital Communications Commission [DCC] – they will take a call in the next 5-6 days. As per process, a back reference goes to TRAI. In parallel, we have worked out a notice inviting tender," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Demand for price cut

He said the main issue was the industry's demand for a further reduction in spectrum prices, which would be "deliberated in a logical and systematic manner".

The Minister said that world over it had been accepted that telecom services were a necessity and a tool for development and the issue of pricing would be looked at with this thinking.

Replying to a query, Mr. Vaishnaw said, "I am confident that this [pricing] issue will be solved... today there is excitement and some stability in the industry after the telecom reforms were announced in September last year. There is a clarity that we need to move forward."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Keen on lifting AFSPA from northeast: Modi

'Decades-old problem of violence, mistrust being resolved'

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

In a bid to completely lift the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1958 from the northeast, efforts are on to improve the law-and-order situation in the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday.

Addressing a 'Peace, Unity and Development' rally in central Assam's Diphu, he said the AFSPA could be withdrawn partially from Assam, Manipur and Nagaland (from April 1) due to peaceful conditions since 2014. The Bodo Accord opened the doors for permanent peace, he added.

"The AFSPA remained enforced in many States of the northeast for decades. We removed it from many areas due to better administration and the return of peace with incidents of violence dropping by 75% in the past eight years. This is the reason that we first removed AFSPA from Tripura and then Meghalaya," Mr. Modi said.

Crediting the steady return of peace in the northeast to the collective efforts of the State governments and the people, he said the Centre was trying to normalise the situation in the remaining areas for the AFSPA to be removed. "We are working at a faster pace in Nagaland and Manipur in this regard," he said.

Reaching out: PM Narendra Modi greeting Bihu dancers after their performance in Dibrugarh, Assam, on Thursday. • PTI

'No more bombs, bullets'

He underscored the Centre's relentless efforts in helping solve the problem of insurgency in Assam's Bodo areas and Karbi Anglong, in Tripura and the Bru (Reang) problem of Tripura-Mizoram. He said similar efforts were being made seriously for permanent peace in some other regions. "The country can now see how the decades-old problem of violence and mistrust is being resolved. People would hear the sound of bombs and sometimes of bullets in the region. Today, we can hear the sounds of clapping," he said.

Mr. Modi expressed happiness that Assam and Meghalaya were trying to resolve their boundary disputes. He said the efforts of the two States would be a template for resolving inter-State differences elsewhere in the region and provide impetus to the developmental aspirations of the people.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Move to disallow prayers at Jamia Masjid decried

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The J&K administration has decided not to allow special congregational prayers in the run-up to Ramzan at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, evoking sharp criticism from the regional parties and Hurriyat chairman and chief priest Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

According to a spokesman of the Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, the caretaker body of the mosque located at Nowhatta, the government and police officials, headed by a magistrate, visited the masjid premises on Wednesday and "conveyed that the authorities have decided not to allow Shab-e-Qadr (night-long prayers) and Jumat-ul-Vida prayers (on the last Friday of Ramzan)".

The People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of regional parties, denounced the move.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Two Al-Badr militants killed in J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Two Al-Badr militants were killed in an operation in south Kashmir's Pulwama on Thursday. "They were involved in a series of attacks on non-local labourers in Pulwama this March-April," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

In another incident, explosives found on a Jammu highway were defused.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Spurned, stalker attacks woman with acid

Victim sustains over 30% burns

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Angered by her rejection and refusal to marry him, a man threw acid on a 24-year-old woman while she was entering her workplace in Sunkadakatte, Kamakshipalya, early Thursday morning.

According to the police, he had been stalking and harassing the victim, an executive with a gold finance firm. She sustained over 30% burns following the attack.

"Her father had dropped her to office, and she was climbing the stairs when the accused, Nagesh, followed her into the building. He splashed acid used in toilet cleaners on her face and fled," said a police officer. The woman started screaming in pain, prompting passers-by to rush to her aid.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 3

Bird's-eye view

Food hunt: A flock of painted stork foraging for food in Doddaballapur Lake on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday. • AFP

Biden seeks $33 billion for Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden asked Congress on Thursday for an additional $33 billion to help Ukraine fend off Russia's invasion, a signal that the U.S. is prepared to mount a robust, long-term campaign to bolster Kyiv and weaken Moscow as the bloody war enters its third month with no sign of abating.

Military assistance

Biden's latest proposal – which the White House said was expected to support Ukraine's needs for five months – has more than $20 billion in military assistance for Kyiv and for shoring up defences in nearby countries.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 11

High Court bars trade unions from taking out May Day procession in city

Says members can be allowed to assemble and hold meeting at Freedom Park

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday declined to grant permission to various trade unions to take out a procession in the Central Business District areas of the city on the occasion of Labour Day on May 1.

A vacation division Bench comprising Justice R. Devdas and Justice K.S. Hemalekha passed the interim order while disposing of the applications filed by All India Trade Union Congress and other labour organisations seeking the court's permission to take out the procession.

HC's earlier order

The trade unions had filed

applications as the jurisdictional police, whom the unions had approached seeking permission for the procession, had pointed out the March 3, 2022, interim order of the High Court banning all types of protests and processions in the city till further orders.

The High Court, which had suo motu initiated a PIL on traffic jams caused due to protests and demonstrations on public roads, had said all types of processions and protests can be permitted only at Freedom Park in an organised manner.

In their applications, the trade unions had said around 10,000 members of various trade unions would take out a peaceful procession from two centres – Town Hall and City Railway Station – till Freedom Park, where they proposed to hold a meeting on Labour Day. The trade unions cited the April 13 interim order of the High Court in permitting Bengaluru Karaga procession as part of its 300-year-old tradition.

Hindrance to public

Agreeing with the contention of the authorities, the Bench said that the procession is bound to hinder general public.

The Bench also accepted the authorities' claim that Karaga procession, which is held past midnight, cannot be compared with processions by the trade unions.

Nevertheless, the Bench said that no person, including members of trade unions, requires permission to walk from Town Hall to reach Freedom Park. However, the Bench said if the members of the unions want to assemble at Freedom Park and hold a meeting, the same can be permitted according to the terms of the express conditions imposed in court's March 3 order.

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THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Measles surge

80 In percentage, the surge in measles cases worldwide this year, the UN said on Wednesday, warning that the rise of the illness indicated that outbreaks of other diseases were likely on the way. The coronavirus pandemic has interrupted vaccination campaigns for non-COVID diseases around the world, creating a "perfect storm" that could put millions of children's lives at risk, the UNICEF and the World Health Organization said in a statement. More than 17,300 measles cases were reported globally in January and February. AFP

Reptiles at risk

21 The percentage of reptile species at risk of extinction according to the first major global assessment of the world's cold-blooded creatures. At least 1,829 species of reptiles are either vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered, including more than half of the turtles and crocodiles, according to a study published in the journal *Nature*. The researchers assessed 10,196 reptile species and evaluated them using criteria from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species. AFP

Internet freedom

56 The number of nations that have now signed a political commitment to push rules for the internet that are underpinned by democratic values. This comes at a time when the U.S. has accused Russia of wielding internet disruptions as a part of its escalating attacks on Ukraine. The commitment called the "Declaration for the Future of the Internet", protects human rights, promotes the free flow of information, protects user privacy, and sets rules for a growing global digital economy among steps to counter digital authoritarianism. REUTERS

Deaths in Sudan

213 The number of people killed in the ongoing fighting in Sudan's troubled Darfur region in recent days, according to the United Nations. The UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet has stated that she was "appalled" at the spike in violence. Members of the Massalit community and Arab fighters have clashed since Friday in and around the West Darfur state capital El Geneina. The clashes, centred in Krink, is the latest example of ethnic violence in the vast, arid and impoverished region. AFP

Rising customer base

100 In million, the number of transacting users e-commerce start-up Meesho acquired on its platform in 2021. The company said that the transacting user base on the platform has grown by about 5.4 times and gross merchandise value (GMV) has risen around three times since March 2021, without disclosing the actual numbers. Meesho also added that it has recorded an 85% increase in seller registrations since April 2021. According to the statement, 70% of all Meesho sellers hail from tier two cities. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Russian roulette with gas supplies

Why is Gazprom cutting off its supplies to the two NATO countries? How has the EU responded?

THE GIST

- Russian energy company Gazprom has announced that it has "completely suspended gas supplies" to Poland's PGNiG and Bulgaria's Bulgargaz citing their failure to pay in roubles.
- Poland, which gets 40% of its natural gas from Russia, has been working on alternatives for many years. However, Bulgaria which is heavily dependent on Russia for gas needs to urgently look for alternatives.
- These disruption in supplies would fuel inflation and damage economic activity, with strong possibilities of energy rationing and even a major recession in the continent's industrial powerhouse, Germany.

SAMPATH G.

The story so far: Russian energy company Gazprom has stopped gas supplies to Bulgaria and Poland citing their failure to pay in roubles. In a statement on April 27, it announced that it has "completely suspended gas supplies" to Poland's PGNiG and Bulgaria's Bulgargaz. Poland and Bulgaria have accused Russia of breach of contract, according to which payments were to be made in euros and dollars only. Towards the end of March, Russian President Vladimir Putin had signed a decree that from April 1, "unfriendly foreign buyers" would have to pay for gas supplies in roubles. He had also added that defaults would result in suspension of contracts.

How will the stoppage of gas supplies affect Poland and Bulgaria?

The gas cuts do not immediately put the two countries in any dire trouble. Russian gas deliveries to both Poland and Bulgaria were anyway expected to end later this year. Poland, which gets 40% of its natural gas from Russia, has been working on alternatives for many years. In the immediate scenario, however, it will lose out on the five billion cubic metres of gas it was set to get from Gazprom. It will likely make up for it with supplies from Germany. Bulgaria, which gets 77% of its natural gas from Russia, has a bigger problem. While its energy minister has said that the country has enough reserves for another month, it needs to urgently look for alternatives, with additional supplies via pipelines from Greece being a distinct possibility.

Why has Russia targeted Poland and Bulgaria with this move?

Poland has been a major gateway for supply of military hardware to Ukraine. It also confirmed earlier this week that it will be sending tanks to Ukraine. Just hours before Gazprom's action, it had announced a fresh set of sanctions against the company and other Russian businesses and oligarchs. As for Bulgaria, after a new liberal government took office last fall, it has cut many of its old ties to Moscow. Not only has it supported the West's sanctions against Russia, it has also hosted Western fighter jets at a new NATO outpost on its Black Sea coast. It is also a major producer of non-NATO weapons that it's considering sending to Kyiv.

Will other countries be hit with similar stoppages?

Russia supplies gas via pipelines to 23 countries in Europe. Among EU members, so far, only Hungary has officially agreed to make rouble payments, with the rest rejecting the demand. However, even if no other country agrees to Russia's rouble payment mechanism, there won't be any further cuts in supplies at least until the second half of May, which is when the next tranche of payments are due. Meanwhile, according to reports, four European buyers have already started making gas payments in roubles, while 10 European companies have opened accounts with Gazprombank to make rouble payments.

How have the EU, Poland, and Bulgaria reacted to the gas supply suspension?

The 27-member European Union has described Russia's decision as "blackmail" and accused Moscow of trying to divide the West over its support for Ukraine. "It comes as no surprise that the Kremlin uses fossil fuels to try to blackmail us," said EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, adding, "Today, the Kremlin failed once again in his attempt to sow division amongst member states. The era of Russian fossil fuel in Europe is coming to an end."

Describing Russia's move as blackmail, Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov said, "We will not succumb to such a racket." The Polish Prime Minister has informed his country's Parliament that he believes Poland's support for Ukraine – and the new sanctions imposed by Warsaw on Tuesday – were the real reasons behind the gas cutoff.

What could happen if Russia shuts gas supplies to more countries?

Europe's natural gas comes from only three sources: Russia, Norway and Algeria. Until the Ukraine invasion, Russia accounted for almost 40% of Europe's gas imports.

While the dependence on Russian gas varies from country to country – ranging from 94% for Finland to 11% for the Netherlands – there is little doubt that disruption in supplies would fuel inflation and damage economic activity, with strong possibilities of energy rationing and even a major recession in the continent's industrial powerhouse, Germany.

What has been the EU's strategy to reduce dependence on Russian gas?

Europe's energy mix comprises of oil (43%), natural gas (24%), nuclear energy (14%), and hydroelectric (4%), with renewables such as wind and solar making up the rest. With climate change a major political issue in Europe, coal – of which there are abundant reserves on the continent – is off the table, and given public hostility to nuclear energy, EU is left with natural gas as the cleanest source of energy. So, for the short-term, the EU is preparing for the heating requirements of the coming winter by tanking up on its gas storage facilities at 80-90% capacity and substituting Russian supplies, as much as possible, with piped gas from Norway and North Africa. But these won't be adequate to reduce Russian dependence to zero. So, the longer-term strategy is centred on importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the U.S. and the Middle East.

Will it be feasible for Europe to transition from Russian natural gas to LNG?

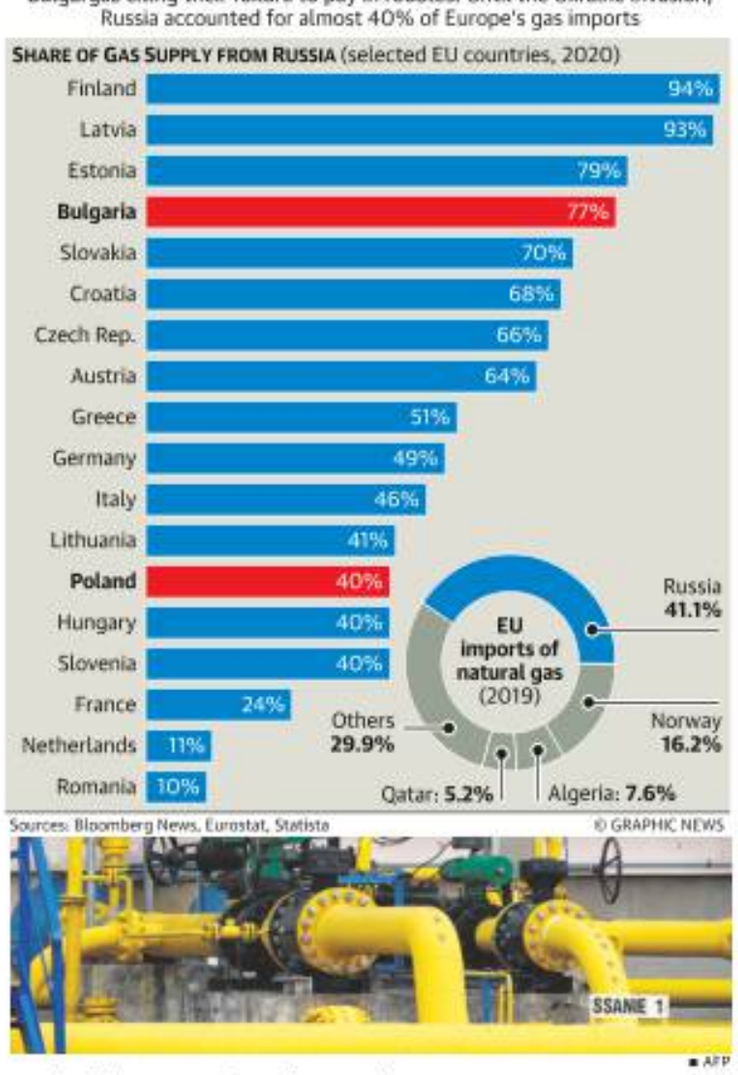
It will be tough challenge, primarily because it is easier and cheaper to transport natural gas via pipeline. LNG requires massive facilities and container ships that require huge capital investments. And yet, over the past decade, the EU has beefed up its LNG infrastructure, building several large terminals. Nonetheless, LNG transported from the U.S. by container ships would be much more expensive than Russian gas received via pipeline. Achieving strategic autonomy, as it were, by replacing Russian gas with American LNG would mean higher prices for the average European consumer, who is currently the primary beneficiary of cheap Russian gas that he uses for household heating purposes.

How will the gas suspension impact Russia?

Western analysts believe that Russia has taken a gamble by cutting off supplies to Poland and Bulgaria. The Russian economy is heavily dependent on gas exports, deriving 40% of its revenue coming from it. If the move forces more EU countries to pay for gas in roubles, it will help shore up its currency and offer some relief for its sanction-hit economy. But at the same time, it could also backfire, if it ends up accelerating the decoupling of the energy 'partnership' between Europe and Russia. Since it is difficult to reroute piped natural gas to different markets, Russia, which doesn't have elaborate storage infrastructure, may well find itself desperate for buyers as well as hard currency, let alone buyers ready to pay in roubles.

Russia cuts off Poland and Bulgaria

On April 27, Russian energy company Gazprom announced that it has "completely suspended gas supplies" to Poland's PGNiG and Bulgaria's Bulgargaz citing their failure to pay in roubles. Until the Ukraine invasion, Russia accounted for almost 40% of Europe's gas imports



Sources: Bloomberg News, Eurostat, Statista © GRAPHIC NEWS

AFP

EXPLAINER

The demand for a revenue share in privatised airports

Why is Tamil Nadu claiming compensation from the Union government over monetisation or transfer of its assets to a third party?

THE GIST

- The Tamil Nadu government issued a policy note which stated that the State government should claim compensation from the Centre in case of privatisation of an airport or transfer of its assets to a third party.
- The States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have also demanded a share of the revenue from privatised airports.
- The policy note added that the value of land, at an appropriate stage, should be converted into equity of the State government in the airport's special purpose vehicle or an appropriate revenue sharing arrangement should be arrived at before the airport is transferred.

SUMEDA

The story so far: Earlier this month, the Tamil Nadu government issued a policy note which stated that the State government should claim compensation from the Centre in case of privatisation of an airport or transfer of its assets to a third party. Coming out in support of the DMK-led government, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand followed suit and claimed a stake in revenue share from the privatisation of airports.

The Centre has shortlisted four airports in Tamil Nadu for asset monetisation. •FILE PHOTO

How many airports have been privatised?

Privatisation of airports in India first began in 2003 after the government approved a proposal to upgrade Mumbai and Delhi in a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government also proposed the privatisation of a few airports, but couldn't implement it.

The proposal was then taken up by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In 2019, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, and Guwahati airports were leased through the PPP model. In 2021, the Centre unveiled its plan to further monetise 25 airports managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) over five years under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP). These included four airports in Tamil Nadu - Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli (Trichy).

What is Tamil Nadu proposing?

Under NMP, the Centre has earmarked four airports for privatisation in Tamil Nadu. As he cited a request to the State to acquire 64.57 acres of patta land for Chennai airport, Tamil Nadu Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu presented a policy note in the Assembly on April 19.

The note states: "The AAI is actively pursuing the policy of privatisation of airports. Therefore, a decision has been taken that in the event the state government acquires and transfers the lands to the Airports Authority of India free of cost and the Airports Authority of India or the Government of India transfer the assets to a third party, the value realised/revenue accrued thereby, must be proportionately shared with the State government reflecting the huge investment in land being made by the State government."

The value of land, at an appropriate stage, should be converted into equity of the State government in the airport's special purpose vehicle or an appropriate revenue sharing arrangement should be arrived at before the airport is transferred to a private party, it adds.

The Tamil Nadu government said the policy decision was taken considering the State's investment in land assets before the transfer to AAI.

Why are Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand backing Tamil Nadu?

The non-BJP ruled States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have also demanded a share of the revenue from privatised airports. Chhattisgarh minister T. S. Singh Deo said when the Centre and State come together for an earning project, the government's capital is present as a shareholder in terms of the land.

"So long as it is in the government sector, things are moving in a particular way, the Government of India would be making some revenue and there would be something spilling over to the State government and there would be a benefit to the public, so that is fine," the minister said, and added, "Now when you are selling it to a third entity which is a private party, then you are selling the assets of the company, which include apart from the infrastructure, the land also. So, the State government should be given the value of the land."

He noted that the sale will be by means of a valuation of the entire property which includes the sale price of the land.

"When you are in a joint venture then the investment which has been made, the Government of India would put in capital in terms of infrastructure, the State government puts up its capital in terms of its land. So, definitely in every such venture, the value of the land should be given to the State government if and when it is sold to a third party which is a private player," the Minister added.

Jharkhand Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon also backed the proposal. "Land belongs to the State. When it is under the central government, we have no issues, we give land, water and other resources. But if the Centre is handing it over to private parties, revenue should be shared with the State government. A policy should be framed in this regard for all the States, not just Jharkhand," Mr. Oraon said.

Has the Centre agreed to the demand?

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is yet to officially comment on the matter. Officials were quoted as saying in a news agency report that a decision regarding the matter will be taken at the higher levels of the government.

Only one lake fit to be drinking water source after treatment

Water quality of all but one falls under D, E categories in classification by KSPCB

K.C. DEEPIKA
BENGALURU

Multiple schemes, many promises and years later, the state of lakes in the city remains the same sordid tale of pollution, neglect and degradation. The latest classification of water quality in lakes in Bengaluru from April 2021 to March 2022 by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) shows that all but one lake in the city failed to make it beyond the last two categories.

The only lake that fell under the C category (drinking water source with conventional treatment followed by disinfection) was Allasandra lake, which saw an improvement in water quality in March this year.

Over the period, 851 samples fell in the D category (propagation of wildlife, fisheries), 279 fell under the E classification (irrigation, industrial cooling, controlled waste disposal). None made it to the top two categories (A: drinking water source without conventional treatment but after disinfection, B: outdoor bathing - organised) .

One of the main reasons why efforts and budget allocations for rejuvenation of lakes has not borne fruit is because of lack of integrated approaches in management, said T.V. Ramachandra, Coordinator, Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science.

"Untreated sewage continues to flow into the rejuvenated lake, with other issues such as dumping industrial effluents into the lake, solid waste in the lake bed, dumping of construction and demolition waste. Active participation of local people in the management of lake - such as in the case of Jakkur lake - during the post-restoration period would certainly help in maintaining the quality of urban lakes," he said.

Prof. Ramachandra's team monitored 40 lakes distributed across the three major watersheds - Koramangala and Challaghatta valley, Vrishabhavathi valley and Hebbal valley - which were grouped under three different WQI status - good water quality (10%); poor water quality (37%) and very poor water quality (53%).

Classification of Bengaluru lakes

Months	*	A	B	C	D	E	Total
April 2021	16	0	0	0	60	30	106
May 2021	22	0	0	0	64	20	106
June 2021	18	0	0	0	67	21	106
July 2021	15	0	0	0	72	19	106
August 2021	13	0	0	0	67	26	106
September 2021	12	0	0	0	68	26	106
October 2021	8	0	0	0	84	14	106
November 2021	11	0	0	0	80	15	106
December 2021	6	0	0	0	74	26	106
January 2022	7	0	0	0	76	23	106
February 2022	7	0	0	0	73	26	106
March 2022	6	0	0	1	66	33	106
Total	141	0	0	1	851	279	1,272

Source: KSPCB

* No water/samples not collected

A: Drinking water source without conventional treatment but after disinfection

B: Outdoor bathing (Organised)

C: Drinking water source with conventional treatment followed by disinfection

D: Propagation of wildlife, fisheries

E: Irrigation, industrial cooling, controlled waste disposal

Impact on food, water

Scientists have pointed out why we should be worried; poor condition of lake ecosystem will severely impair fish, fodder and water, lead to propagation of invasive species and contamination of groundwater, evident from higher levels of nitrates in the borewells.

"A serious concern is the presence of heavy metals in our food. A study on heavy metal concentrations in vegetables grown in the command areas of Varthur and other lakes in Bengaluru has shown a significant accumulation of heavy metals in vegetables that correlated well with its concentrations in soil and lake water," said Prof. Ramachandra. He pitched for an independent authority for lake conservation and management and making this accountable for lapses in restoration, implementation of the "polluter pays principle" stance, and making bureaucracy accountable for ill-conceived projects affecting lakes.

Quality of river water also of concern

SPECIAL CORESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In what could be more worrisome, the highest number of water quality samples from rivers in the state fell in the C category. While 753 samples were C category, 190 were under B. None fell under A, and 128 and 18 were under D and E respectively.

Recently, a new study by the IISc published in the journal 'Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety' had revealed that pollutants like microplastics may be causing growth defects in fish, including skeletal deformities in the Cauvery river.

Scientists blamed sustained discharge of untreated industrial effluents, disposal of untreated sewage of surrounding towns, removal of riparian vegetation (aiding in remediation of surface run-off), degrading catchment and apathy of local administration as major factors.

Role of KSPCB

Citizens also raised questions about the role of the KSPCB. V. Ramprasad from Friends of Lakes said the board's responsibility is not just to indicate or publish the water quality, but primarily to control pollution that is resulting in poor quality water.

Violent protests at GITAM University after student falls to death at hostel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The death of a final-year business management student at her hostel in Doddaballapur on Wednesday night sparked violence on the campus when students launched a protest and attacked staff accusing them of failing to get the deceased timely help.

According to the police, 24-year-old Asiina Uwase from Uganda fell from the 7th floor of the hostel building at Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM) University at Nagadevanahalli.

Students ransacked a building at GITAM University after the death of a 24-year-old student. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The police suspect that Asiina lost her balance and fell from the seventh floor onto the sixth floor landing while trying to retrieve clothes that she had left to dry. She sustained severe head injuries and was taken to a hospital where doctors declared her brought dead.

Violent protests broke out soon after with students accusing hostel staff of delaying shifting Asiina to the hospital. They started pelting stones and smashing window panes, following which the police were called in. The police resorted to caning and lathi-charged protesters to disperse them.

A group of students also gathered outside the medical facility as well. The police are waiting for the post-mortem report to ascertain the cause of death. They have been deployed on the campus to maintain law and order.

Police track two juveniles for over 1,200 km in 58-hour-long chase

Teams travelled to Gujarat to nab them for brutally stabbing a taxi driver

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a series of events that could have been taken straight out of a movie, a police team nabbed a pair of juveniles wanted in a case of stabbing after a 58-hour-long chase covering around 1,200 km. The juveniles, who hail from Bihar, had stabbed a taxi driver 32 times to rob him of ₹12,000 on Sunday night. The incident took place near St. John's Hospital in Koramangala.

Taxi driver Dileep was stabbed 32 times and robbed of ₹12,000 on Sunday night. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"As the hospital was nearby, the victim, Dileep, received timely care and survived the attack," said the Madiwala police. The juveniles had accidently left behind a bank payslip with their personal details at the crime scene. With the help of a bank, the police managed to get the address of the accused and their mobile numbers. "Call record details put their presence in the same area," said a police officer.

A team led by Police Sub-Inspector Nagaraj S. Shettar started tracking the duo and discovered that they had boarded the Bikaner Express from Yeshwantpur station. The police decided to board the train at Pune station. Mr. Shettar and his team took a flight to Pune while another police team led by Inspector Paul Priya Kumar took the road. Mr. Shettar's team landed at Pune in time to board the train , but could not locate the accused due to heavy rush of passengers.

Through call record details, the police learned that the juveniles got off the train in Gujarat. They were taking shelter with labourers from their hometown at Dahej industrial town. The police arrived at the labour colony there and launched a hunt asking locals if they were aware of any newcomers. Their efforts paid off, and the two juveniles were caught. The police recovered two knives, blood stained clothes, and ₹2,100 from them.

"Preliminary investigations revealed that the accused aged around 17 years hailed from a poor family in Bihar and were high school dropouts. They hatched a plan to come to Bengaluru to commit a series of robberies to make money. The cab driver was the first victim. However, they decided to escape after stabbing him. Their plan was to lay low for a few days and return to the city again," said Assistant Commissioner of Police Sudhir M. Hedge, who supervised the operation.

Offices, residences of officials raided, ₹10 lakh recovered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

ACB officials on Thursday raided the residences and offices of the managing director, and the general manager of Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation and recovered unaccounted cash totalling to ₹10 lakh as well as documents related to various schemes.

Based on a series of complaints from the members of general public about rampant corruption at the office, the ACB registered a suo motu case and carried simultaneous raids at the offices and houses of the managing director, Leelavathi, and the general manager, Nagarajappa. "Officials seized several documents and upon verification found that the duo were involved in corrupt practices," said the ACB.

Footprints give away three security guards who looted ₹1.4 crore

Accused traced to Bangarpet 13 hours after they commit crime

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Hulimavu police on Thursday arrested three security guards who allegedly burgled a flat belonging to a doctor and were on the run with the valuables worth ₹1.4 crore. What gave them away were footprints left behind on the dusty floor, through which the police realised that one of the suspects walked with a limp.

The police tracked down the accused, Bablu Paswan, Bhola Paswan, and Sridhar, to Bangarpet in Kolar district 13 hours after they committed the crime. "All the stolen items were recovered and we nabbed them before they could board another train to their hometown," said the police.

The gang gained access into the apartment via the balcony. "They broke open the sliding door and made off with gold, diamond, and platinum jewellery, foreign and Indian currency. The flat was unoccupied at the time and due to the dust on the floor, we found several footprints. On close examination of the footprint pattern, we realised that one of the suspects had a limp," said a police officer.

When they checked with the security staff, they discovered that three personnel were missing. One of the missing guards had a limp. Suspecting that they had a hand in the burglary, the police analysed their mobile phone call record details and learned that they had boarded a bus to Kolar.

A team left for Kolar and kept watch at the bus stand and train stations. The police recovered the stolen valuables intact except ₹1,200 which the accused had spent on buying tickets and food.

College students await exam timetable

TANIA ANNY
BENGALURU

Bangalore City University students are upset over delays in the first semester examinations, the timetable for which has still not been released. "We have completed more than eight months and have already lost time due to the pandemic. When we ask our professors, they smply say that the university will fix a date," said Bhaviya, a student at Government First Grade College, Basavanagudi.

Faculty and college principals attributed the delays in the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP). "We are facing some problems as it is a completely new system. But we have solved most of these issues and are preparing to conduct the first semester examination soon," said a principal of a popular college in Bengaluru. He said the college was hoping to begin exam by May 9.

Abhaya Diwakar, district president, AIDSO, said the NEP calls for fundamental changes in the curriculum. "This is for the first time that two batches will be in the same year. Even students are finding it difficult to adjust to interdisciplinary subject courses and four-year degrees. A few days ago, on behalf of AIDSO, we met with the vice-chancellors of Bangalore City University and Bangalore North University regarding the examination date. But so far the timetable has not been fixed," he said.

Bangalore City University V-C Lingaraja Gandhi, said: According to NEP 2020, data pertaining to students have to be entered into the UUCMS portal. Students and colleges also need to verify all the data. We have a large number of students from other States as well, so verifying their documents is a lengthy process."

RGUHS convocation to be held tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Over 43,000 students at Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences will be awarded degrees and prizes at the varsity's 24th annual convocation, which will be held on April 30.

Of these, 82 will be conferred PhDs, 146 will graduate in super specialty courses, 6,796 in PG courses, and 36,409 in UG courses. As many as 83 candidates will be awarded gold medals. The total overall passing percentage of all faculties put together at RGUHS is 82.25%, stated a release. Governor and Chancellor of University Thaawar Chand Gehlot will preside over the convocation, while Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, who is the chief guest will deliver the address. Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswami, Dr. B.N. Gangadhar and Dr. Rajan Deshpande will be conferred Honorary Doctorate Degree, 'Doctor of Sciences' (Honoris Causa)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 02XENMYSS-ABSHOP-22-23 Dated: 26.04.2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

Name of Work	Approx. Cost
Proposed Tender for Face Lifting of Air Brake Shop as a Centre of Excellence at Ashokpuram Workshop. (Composite Tender).	Rs. 1,22,86,170.32/-

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 15:00 hrs. of 26.05.2022
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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, POOJA Chopda W/o Vikas Chopda, aged about 38 years residing at # 1, Shanthi Niketan, 1st Cross, Castle Street, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru-560025, Affirm that I have changed my name from Pooja Chopda to Pooja Vikas Chopda Affidavit Dt. 26.4.2022 sworn before Notary S.I. Balaguru, Bengaluru-84. Reg. No.10191

EXHIBITION / EVENTS FAIR

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Ramaraj Jayaprakash Narayanan, R/o. RAA 605, Purva Riviera Apartment, Bangalore-37, have Changed my Name Jayaprakash Narayanan to Ramaraj Jayaprakash Narayanan, Affidavit Dt. 27/4/22, Notary S.I.Balaguru.

I, MARIYA Abbas Fakkad, R/o Flat No.B-702, Nitesh Hyde Park, Near Meenakshi Mall, Hulimavu, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to Mariya Hatim Tinwala, vide affidavit dt: 21.04.2022 sworn before Notary S.Vijayakumar, B'lore

LOST & FOUND
LOST MY Original Site Documents bearing 19/13/A Site No 396/B Survey No 868 Gauthamnagar Malkajgiri Municipality Rangareddy District. If Found Please contact: 8179129099

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE HOMBLE LXX 111 ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT MAYOHALL, BENGALURU EXECUTION CASE No.25435 OF 2019
Between:
Decree Holder : Yogachari Hasaan Rajachari @ Yogichari
VS
Judgement Debtor: N. Ashokan, since deceased represented by his legal heirs being his wife Smt Nalini and his son Mr. Arjun
Summons to Judgement Debtors under Order V Rule 20 of C.P.C.- 1908
To : Judgement Debtor N.Ashokan, Since deceased, represented by his legal heirs being his wife Smt. Nalini and his son Mr. Arjun both residing at No. 11, "B" Cross, B.B.M.P. Ward No. 81, 1st Main, Bindavan Layout, Vignana Nagar, Bengaluru- 560093.
Whereas the above named Decree Holder has instituted the aforesaid Execution Case against you for the enforcement of the Judgement and Decree dated 31-07-2019 passed by the Hon'ble Court in O.S. 26273 of 2013 in favour of the Decree Holder.
You are hereby called upon to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or through a counsel on the 9th Day of June 2022 at 11 A.M. to defend yourself, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned above, the execution case will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 22nd day of April 2022.
By order of the Court,
Sheristedar, City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bengaluru
Advocate for Decree Holder
B.N. Kumar, Advocate,
C/o " Law Expressions" #261/C, 4th Main, H.A.L. 3rd Stage, Bengaluru – 560 075
Cell # : 94482 77864

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH-18)
G & W. CASE No. 33 | 2022
BETWEEN :-
1. Gunasheela. N., D/o Nagaraja. M.
D.O.B: 14/11/2010, Aged about: 12 years, 6th Std., VSM School, Rajajinagar
2. Lalith. N, S/o. Nagaraja.M.
D.O.B : 12/07/2014, Aged about 8 years, 2nd Std, VSM School, Rajajinagar,
Both residing at., No. 01, Dasanapura Hobli, Shivajyothi Nagar, Herokyathanahalli, Bengaluru-562123 ...PETITIONERS
Petitioners being minors
Represented by their Natural Guardian
Nagaraja. M. @ M.Nagaraja
S/o. Late. Muniyappa.M. Age: 58 years, Residing in the aforesaid address
AND :- -NIL- ...RESPONDENTS
NOTICE
The above named petitioners have instituted the above petition under Section 8,10 & 11 of Guardians & Wards Act, 1890, seeking a permission to sell the Schedule Property through their father Nagaraja. M. @ M. Nagaraja a natural guardian .
If anybody, party or person have any objection /claim, they may approach the City Civil Court-CCH-18 behind Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru on 10-06-2022 at 11 AM
SCHEDULE
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of property bearing New No. 62 (Old Municipal No. 433/30A) , PID No. 22-8-62, and consists of Building Ground floor-1 House and 2 Shops, First floor-1 House (RCC roof) and Second floor -1 House (AC sheet) situated at BBMP Ward No.108, 8th Main, 46th Cross, 4th Block Rajajinagar, and bounded on :-
East by : House No. 29/B
West by : Remaining Half portion (3/6th share) belongs to Umashivakumar & Sahana
North by : House No. 30/B
South by : 46th Cross Road
Measurement:
Eastern Side of Main Property, East to West : 22 ft. North to South : 27 ft = 594 Sq. Feet land (Half Portion Undivided Share out of 1188 Sq ft., Main Property of late. M. Muniyappa)
Given under the seal and sign this 25th day of April month of 2022 .
By Order of the Court,
Sd/- Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate For Petitioners:
S.V. DESAI, No.31, Link Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003
Mobile : 9845065606

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

No. A.12012/DEPU/1/2022 dated 20/04/2022

VACANCY NOTICE

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) is an Autonomous body of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, that conducts Post Graduate Examinations of High standards in the field of Modern Medicine and Allied specialties at National level. The NBEMS invites applications for filling up of 1 post of Joint Director (Non-Medical) and 5 Posts of Deputy Director (Non-Medical) in the area of General Administration and Finance (on Deputation):

Name of Post	Pay Scale	No. of Vacancies
Joint Director (Non-Medical)	Level - 12	1
Deputy Director (Admin.)	Level – 11	4
Deputy Director (Finance)	Level - 11	1

For further details, Last Date, Eligibility, and other terms and conditions, please refer to the detailed Vacancy notice at NBEMS website www.natboard.edu.in

Joint Director (Admin.)

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Construction & Maintenance Group, ISRO HQ,
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road,
HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -560 008
Ph:080-25037-192/387/210/388

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE

Name of work	Providing maintenance free earthing system for electrical installations & miscellaneous works at DOS Housing colony, Anthariksh Apartment Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.
NIT No.	CMG/ISRO-HQ/E/M/01/2022-23 Dt. 28.04.2022
Estimated Cost	Rs. 8.50 Lakhs
Period of Completion in months	Three (03) Months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 18:10 Hrs on 28.04.2022 to 23:59 Hrs on 08.05.2022
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14:30 Hrs on 10.05.2022
Due date and time for opening of tenders	15:00 Hrs on 10.05.2022

Interested tenderers may please refer www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO Also, detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, can be downloaded from website:www.isro.gov.in/tender

Sd/- Group Head, CMG, ISRO HQ

THE HINDU
Text & Context

A still from *Killing Eve*.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Killing the anti-heroine

For a show which allowed unhindered agency to its female characters, the ending of *Killing Eve* came as a huge disappointment

THE GIST

- The anti-hero of the 2000s, sought to represent the underdog, whose hyper-assertive masculinity and extra-legal pursuits were not written for the audience to connect with, but rather to fulfil a more vicarious thrill of crossing moral thresholds.
- The anti-heroine on the other hand mostly centres the narrative of the 'difficult woman' wading through male-dominated professions, breaching established moral code. On the other hand, shows like *Fleabag* have turned the ambition inwards for their central woman protagonists, for whom the end is an emotional catharsis.
- A series all about anti-heroine(s) and ambiguous morality, *Killing Eve* never set out to be a lesson in the moral philosophies of modern times. So when the show traded this dynamic for a more simplistic one that punished the unapologetic anti-heroine, they let the audience down.

PALLAVI KESWANI

When BBC America's *Killing Eve* aired its first season, it quickly cemented itself as a favourite of both critics and the masses. Spanning across picturesque locations, featuring an elusive criminal organisation, and even dabbling into a Cold War plotline, the show had the trappings of an iconic spy-thriller series. Yet, none of these elements contributed to the show's fame, in fact they paled in comparison to the leading pair's meditative pursuit of each other.

Killing Eve was poised for success as it masterfully navigated the television landscape of anti-heroines, who had been slowly taking over the screen over the last decade. (Spoilers ahead).

Anti-hero vs anti-heroine

In the television-verse, the aughts were ushered in by the anti-hero, the morally ambiguous patriarch who despite his transgressive actions was framed to elicit sympathy from the audience. The anger of Tony Soprano (*The Sopranos*) dominated the screen, before the baton was handed over to the anxieties of Don Draper (*Mad Men*) and the frustrations of Walter White (*Breaking Bad*). These protagonists sought to represent the underdog, whose hyper-assertion of masculinity and extra-legal acts in pursuit of his ambitions were given a favourable treatment by showrunners. Their stories were not written for the audience to connect with, but rather fulfilled a more vicarious thrill that stemmed from the curiosity of the consequences of crossing moral thresholds.

The past decade has seen a reversal in this trend. With an increasing number of women helming productions, shows that centre the anti-heroine instead of her male counterpart have gained limelight. These shows have also been crucial in expanding the scope of characters and stories that women can inhabit. Kerry Washington in *Scandal* and Viola Davis in *How to Get Away with Murder* led the narrative of the 'difficult woman' wading through male-dominated professions, breaching the established moral code.

On the other hand, shows like *Fleabag*, *Flack* and *Euphoria* have turned the ambition inwards for their central woman protagonists, for whom the end is an emotional catharsis. Their actions don't necessarily make them an outlier in society, but intensely make them a stranger to themselves, and eventually to their loved ones.

The anti-hero exists to serve the ravenous fantasy of 'what next?' since their gender is denied very little outside of the television screen. Whereas, when you look beyond the cold exterior, the anti-heroine uses her power to progress in her career or claim space in her relationships. Choosing to focus on both these aspects together, *Killing Eve*, came through as a promising venture into the spy genre.

The making of the anti-heroine(s)

Earlier this month, the show ended its four-season run. If the first season was a mighty splash, then the last one came and went by as a quiet whisper, until the finale that is, which has the show's fanbase up in arms.

Killing Eve followed the forbidden chase between an international assassin, Villanelle (Jodie Comer), and an MI5 desk agent Eve Polastri (Sandra Oh).

The brutally-witty Villanelle murdered her way through the sunny Tuscan landscape and dreary London hospitals, hopping from one assignment to the next. An all-consuming entity, Villanelle did not embrace stealth and instead demanded attention. She wanted her killings to enamour the public and the police alike. Villanelle is the female placed in the mould of the classic male anti-hero; her motivations are a secret even to the viewers and despite being a cold-blooded killer, she is written to enthral us.

The feeling of a dreadful fondness towards Villanelle is as much an enigma for the audience as it is for Eve.

Working a bland desk-job at MI5, Eve somewhat represents the fanbase of the show. She harbours a taboo fascination for the macabre side of her workplace, displaying a giddy excitement when her sleuth skills produce results. At the same time, she also mirrors the majority of working women in nuclear families.

After years at the desk, Eve is provided an opportunity to realise her potential as a field agent, when tasked with finding Villanelle. Her professional pursuit, however, is roadblocked by her husband Niko.

As she juggles her priorities, Eve emerges as her own anti-heroine. Her insistence on chasing Villanelle puts a divide in her marriage, and her husband in the way of mortal harm. Eventually, Eve's attraction to Villanelle acts as a catalyst in her crossing the boundary to more morally grey pastures. We see Eve be afraid of, confront, and later ease into her own identity as someone who doesn't shy away from using violence for defence and later for intimidation. If Villanelle is symbolic of the moral shift in Eve, then Eve acts as a sombre emotional awakening in Villanelle's harsh life. During their initial confrontations, Villanelle confessed that she longs for "normal stuff...someone to watch movies with."

After teasing it out for four seasons, the writers finally decide to allow Villanelle and Eve to act upon their attraction and their potential as a team in the final episode. As they embrace each other, after taking down the criminal organisation that has haunted their lives, Villanelle is shot in the back, and dies soon after.

It is revealed that Carolyn Martens (Fiona Shaw), who was Eve's boss at MI6, had ordered the hit. For a show that never quite fixated on loyalties, the move forward with a plot of "bad people meet a bad fate" feels disjointed. The attempt to establish status quo comes across as desperate in a show that revelled in its ridiculousness and deceit.

A lesson in morality?

Killing Eve never set out to be a lesson in the moral philosophies of the modern times. Stringent loyalty was presented as a shifty, undesirable trait. Early in the show Villanelle reminded Eve that, "if you went high enough, you'd probably find we work for the same people." When they trade this murky complicated reality, for a more simplistic one that punishes the unapologetic anti-heroine, they mock the audience who were encouraged to look at Villanelle in a different light. Eve too is made to pay for her transgressions.

Fleabag star Phoebe Waller-Bridge, who wrote the first season, had said in an interview, "Every moment in this show exists so that these two women can end up alone in a room together." To that end, *Killing Eve* existed primarily as a show about queer women. The secret agencies, the criminal organisations, and their actions, all seem to exist to aid the meeting of these two women, beyond which they carried little relevance.

Villanelle is shown to be explicitly queer as she pursues relationships with both men and women, and it doesn't take too long for Eve to have her own realisations. Their longing for each other is not couched in shame, until the writers decide that it is by abruptly killing off Villanelle.

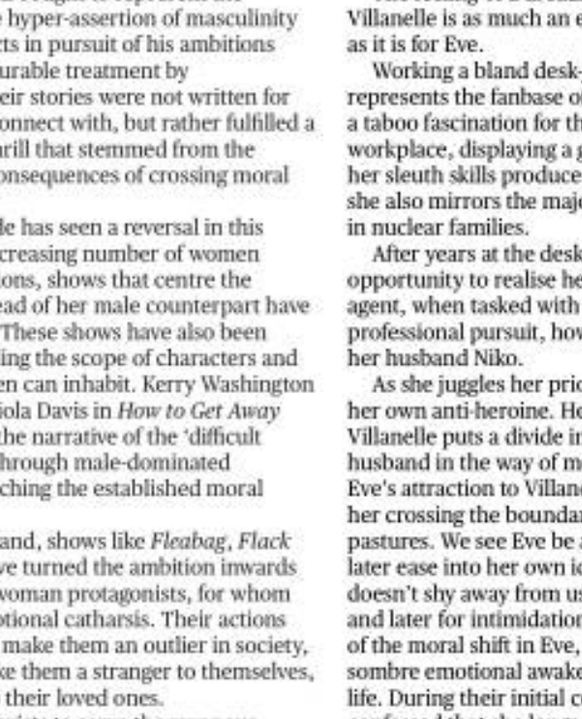
Laura Neal, the final season's showrunner, described Villanelle's death as a moment of rebirth for Eve. However, the writers don't need to search too hard to find that violently killing off queer characters is neither a fresh writing choice, nor does it make for a clever plot twist. Villanelle's demise ultimately served no larger purpose in the plot of the show. The enemies of the state had already been killed off by her and characters that indulged in equally bad actions continued to live on. It was a weak attempt at driving home a point about morality that had never existed in the first place.

In choosing to eliminate one anti-heroine, and leave the other a blubbering mess, *Killing Eve* ended its show by snatching away the unhindered agency it had granted to its characters, and turned its back on the females it wanted to champion.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on Indian dance forms on the occasion of the 40th International Dance Day being celebrated on April 29

1. Who codified the Natya Shastra and according to it what are the three essential elements of the art form?
2. What was the traditional form and name of Bharatanatyam, originally performed in temples, called and who was instrumental in bringing the dance form to the public at large?
3. Which dance form uses Jayadeva's 'Gita Govinda' extensively?
4. Which dance form's name literally translates to 'dance of the enchantress'?
5. Sattriya, one of the classical dance forms recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, originates from which State?
6. In Kathakali, the make-up known as Pacha (Green) is allotted to which type of characters?
7. Which dance form has three distinct 'gharanas' – Jaipur, Banaras, and Lucknow – to indicate where the tradition evolved.
8. Giddha, Sammi, and Kikli are folk dances from which State of India?
9. A 2 metre statue of Shiva as Nataraja gifted by the Indian government in 2004 finds a pride of place in one of the premier research institutes in Europe. Where?



Identify this popular folk dance from the eastern part of India. • AFP

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The starting and ending locations of the Kon-Tiki expedition. **Ans: Kon-Tiki is an old name for the Inca god Viracocha and the expedition, done on a balsa raft, sailed from Callao (Peru) to Raroia atoll in French Polynesia**

2. The first person to reach the North pole. **Ans: Robert Peary**

3. The significance of the INSV Tarini on May 21, 2018. **Ans: It was the vessel in which six naval officers became the first all-women Indian crew to circumnavigate the world**

4. The UNESCO World Heritage Site made public by Hiram Bingham III. **Ans: Machu Picchu**

5. The author of the travelogue *The Rihla, or A Masterpiece to Those Who Contemplate the Wonders of Cities and the Marvels of Travelling*. **Ans: Ibn Battuta**

6. The significance of May 20, 1498 in Indian history. **Ans: It was on that day Vasco Da Gama landed at Kappadu near Kozhikode**

7. The famous explorer associated with the ships Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria. **Ans: Christopher Columbus**

8. The more popular name of Elizabeth Cochran Seaman who went around the world in 72 days rather than 80. **Ans: Nellie Bly**

Visual: The name of the woman is **Junko Tabei. She was the first woman to scale Mt. Everest**

Early Birds: Ronnie Chatterjee| K.N. Viswanathan| Sudhi Agarwal

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"Is there a difference between 'hearty' and 'heartfelt', sir?"

"'Hearty' means 'warm-hearted and friendly.'

We were all given a hearty welcome.

He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker.

A man in exceptionally good health is said to be 'hale and hearty'. 'Hearty' tends to outward expression. It is sincere and is warmly expressed. 'Heartfelt' means 'sincere'. It needn't be demonstrative. Heartfelt' is used when you want to express deep emotions and feelings. When you sympathise with others in their grief, you don't use the word 'hearty'. The word 'heartfelt' is used in such contexts.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences.

Thanks could be heartfelt or hearty depending on the context. Normally you say 'hearty congratulations' and not 'heartfelt congratulations'."

"What's the difference between 'cold' and 'cool', sir?"

" 'Cool' is something between 'warm' and 'cold'.

It is pleasant to sit in the cool shade.

When it is hot, you buy an air-cooler to cool your room. Air-conditioners also cool the room. We put on warm clothes when the weather is cold. Metaphorically, a cold person is one lacking in warmth and friendliness. It is not a compliment when someone says you are cold. But if someone says that you have a cool head, it is a compliment. 'Cold' refers to one's nature and 'cool' to one's state of mind at a particular time.

He was cool though provoked.

In certain contexts 'cool' is used in the sense of 'unfriendly'.

He was rather cool towards her yesterday. He was not like that before.

Generally we talk about cold indifference, cold calculation but cool determination and cool courage."

"How do you use 'despite' and 'in spite of', sir?"

"They mean the same. But *despite* is not followed by *of*.

Despite his hard work, he was not promoted.

He went to the meeting despite his high fever.

He failed in the examination despite his hard work.

He came despite the bad weather.

Despite is a formal word. It is not used in ordinary conversation. 'In spite of' is used in all contexts, formal and informal.

In spite of my warning, he attended the meeting.

In spite of the bad weather, he came.

In spite of his hard work, he was not promoted.

I'd like to tell you again that despite is not followed by *of*.

Despite all his troubles, he is cheerful.

In spite of all his troubles, he is cheerful."

"Sir, is it correct to say 'no mention'when somebody thanks you?"

"In British English, the response to 'thanks' is either 'don't mention it' or 'not at all'. There are several variations on these two. 'No mention' is perhaps our modified version of 'don't mention it'. It has come to stay. In American English, the response is 'you are welcome'. In fact, 'you are welcome' is influencing Britain also. I must say goodbye now."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, APR. 29	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 04:56	SET 17:27
SATURDAY, APR. 30	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 05:34	SET 18:15
SUNDAY, MAY. 01	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:34
RISE 06:12	SET 19:05

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	36	22
Bengaluru	35	24

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A warm and uneasy weather to prevail.Night also will be pleasant. Chances of rain and thundershower at some places.

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COVID: Staff crunch may hit preparation for fourth wave

Services of doctors outsourced during peak of pandemic have been discontinued

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

While the State has claimed that it is well prepared to handle the fourth wave of COVID-19, staff crunch is likely to be a major drawback, as the services of 6,463 doctors and other staff outsourced by the health department during the peak of the pandemic in the first wave have been discontinued. Sources said the Finance Department has rejected the proposal to extend the contract.

The 6,463 staff are excluding the 2,400 personnel outsourced by the BBMP. The services of all these workers were discontinued after their contract ended on March 31.

Sources said State Health Commissioner Randeep D. had sent a proposal seeking extension of services of the 6,463 outsourced doctors and staff for handling COVID-related responsibilities in the light of the anticipated fourth wave. In the proposal, the Commissioner had sought an extension of six months for the workers - from April 1, 2022, till June 30, 2022.

However, the Finance Department has rejected the proposal on the grounds that the incidence of COVID-19 is low as of now, sources said.

The Finance Department rejected the proposal for extension of contract on the grounds that the incidence of COVID-19 is low as of now. • FILE PHOTO

The outsourced workers under the aegis of Karnataka United Health Department Outsourced Workers Sangha affiliated to All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) had staged a two-day protest in the city and submitted a memorandum to the Health and Medical Education Minister K Sudhakar on April 11 seeking renewal of their contract. The Minister reportedly assured the workers that would make efforts to get their contract extended/renewed.

Several District Health Officers (DHOs) that *The Hindu* spoke to said that staff crunch is going to be a major issue. "How can testing be ramped up if the services of the outsourced swab collectors and lab technicians are not extended? As there is no significant rise in COVID cases and hospitalisation as of now, we can manage with the existing doctors and paramedical staff. But it will be a major problem if cases increase," said a DHO, who did not want to be quoted.

The outsourced workers, who are jobless now, are frequently approaching the district health authorities seeking extension of the contract. Veena R., a 'D' Group worker, who was outsourced and posted at Ramanagaram District Hospital, said she is in a major financial crisis now after her contract ended. "I am eagerly waiting for the government to extend my contract," she said.

A. Vishnuvardhan, who was outsourced as a swab collector and posted in Rajarajeshwarinagar, said he had managed to get a temporary job in a small private firm for the time being. "But there are many who are without any job and finding it difficult to make ends meet," he said.

T.K. Anil Kumar, Principal Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), said the issue has to be decided by the government. "The Finance Department has rejected the proposal seeking extension. We cannot do anything till the department approves it."

Staff to be hired

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

K.V. Trilok Chandra, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) said the Palike would hire the services of one doctor, one data entry operator and one swab collector in each of the 141 Primary Health Centre (PHC) from Friday itself. "We will outsource more personnel as and when the need arises," he added.

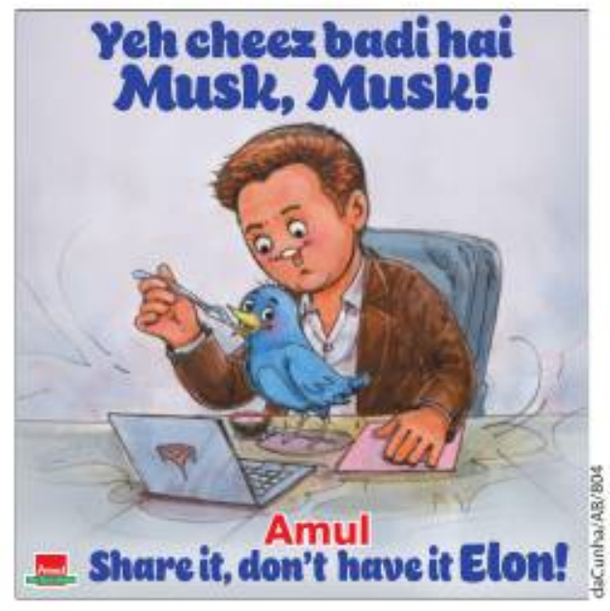
Cases rise to 154 in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday reported 154 new cases taking the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) rose to 1.49%. Of the new cases, 142 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban.

With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,057. As many as 116 persons were discharged on Thursday. Active cases touched 1,751.

As many as 10,319 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 7,826 RT-PCR tests.



daCunha/AS/804

FROM PAGE ONE

Stalker attacks woman with acid

She was taken to a private hospital in the area where doctors administered first aid and then shifted to St. John's Medical College Hospital for further treatment.

The victim, an M.Com graduate, lives in Hegganahalli where Nagesh *(in picture)* was renting an apartment. "Preliminary investigations revealed that he was stalking her and had proposed to her many times in the past," said a police officer. Unable to bear harassment, the victim informed her family who in turn complained to the owner of the house. Appalled by his behaviour, the landlord forced Nagesh to vacate the house. On Wednesday, Nagesh confronted her at her office and created a ruckus. He threatened to make her pay for refusing to marry him. "It was then that her father decided to drop and pick up his daughter from her workplace every day. However, he managed to slip into the building and attacked her," the police officer added. Senior police officials along with the FSL team visited the spot as part of the investigation. A special team has been formed and the police have launched a a massive manhunt for Nagesh who remains absconding.

Arvind Kasthuri, Chief of Medical Services, St. John's Medical College Hospital, said the victim's condition was stable. "We are managing her in the ICU as she has developed metabolic acidosis. She suffered burns on the upper part of her neck bordering the jawline and torso," he said.

Officials to fix radio collars on jumbos

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Following repeated incidents of man-elephant conflict in Hassan district, the Forest Department will put radio collars on four elephants and relocate two. The operation to capture the elephants and put radio collars will be carried out between May 1 and 7.

Deputy Conservator of Forests of Hassan division K.N. Basavaraj said that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wild Life) had given approval for the operation. The staff would capture two tuskers, which have been causing trouble in parts of Alur, Sakleshpur and Belur taluks, and radio collars would be fitted on them before shifting them to a distant place.

Two female elephants, which have been leading herds, would be captured and fitted with radio collars. With the help of the radio collar, the department would monitor the movement of the elephants. The department has a system to alert people about the movement of elephants so that they could avoid coming out.

Recently, two plantation workers died in an elephant attack near Arehalli in Belur taluk. Such instances have forced the department to take up the operation. The officer has appealed to the public to cooperate with the department during the operation.

Better inter-departmental coordination needed: BBMP

'Finish work on Avenue Road in 20 days'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

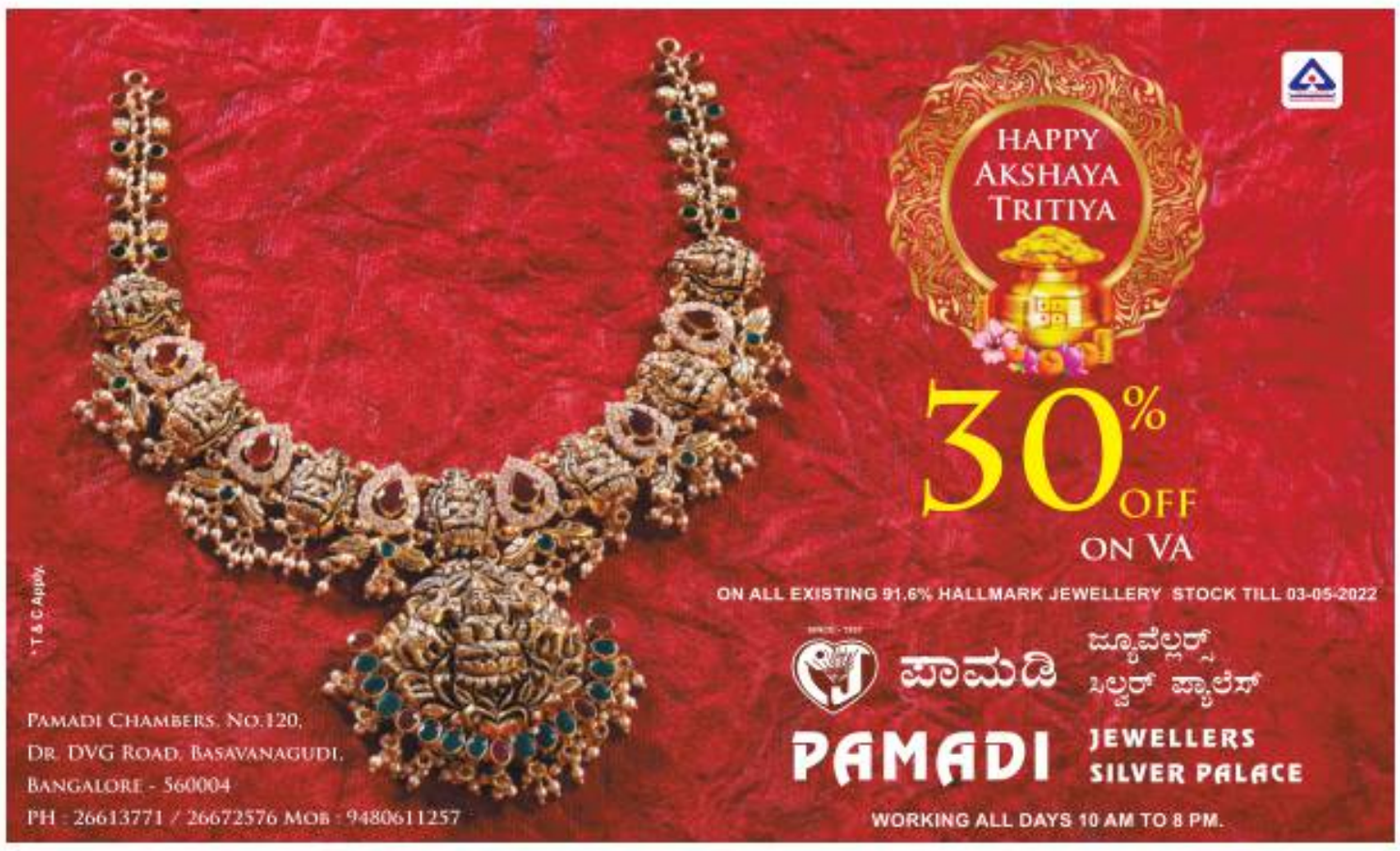
Inter-departmental coordination, maintenance of roads and footpaths, restoration of roads dug up for various utility services, solid waste management, clearing of drains to allow free flow of rainwater and removal of illegal flexes, banners and OFCs ... these were the main topics of discussion at a review meeting chaired by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) administrator Rakesh Singh.

On Thursday, Mr. Singh, who is also the Additional Chief Secretary of Urban Development Department, along with civic chief Gaurav Gupta chaired the virtual meeting and directed officials to ensure works taken up are completed in time, while also ensuring quality. "Instead of blaming other utilities, such as Bengaluru Smart City Ltd., Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board and Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company, issues can be resolved with better inter-departmental coordination," he said.

Avenue Road inspection

Mr. Singh also inspected the work on the 1.02-km long Avenue Road, an arterial road that connects Mysore Bank Circle to S.J.P. Road. He directed BSCL officials, who are developing the road as per TenderSURE norms, to complete the pending work within 20 days without any inconvenience to daily business and citizens.

Work on utility ducts on either side of the road have been completed, stated a press release.



Panel discussion

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of World Culture has organised a panel discussion (online) on Dr. Suchethana Swaroop's book titled *Beyond East and West - A story on civilisation through the great epics* (translated from Kannada by Prof. N.S. Raghavan) on Saturday at 10.30 a.m.

The discussion will be streamed live on youtube.com/c/Indian Instituteofworldculture

BWSSB's phone-in programme

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold phone-in programme on Saturday (April 30).

According to a Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board release, its Chairman, N. Jayaram, will address the grievances of consumers relating to water billing, manhole overflowing, meter reading, improper water supply and sanitary issues.

For more details, call 080-22945119 between 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Consumers are required to share their R.R. number details before raising the complaint, the release from BWSSB stated.

Third edition of 'Open Heart' on May 2

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Bengaluru, is organising the third edition of Open Heart - a platform for unheard stories and untold struggles on May 2.

According to a release from the college, the Public Relations Office of the college introduced the idea of Open Heart to inspire the young minds to become tomorrow's leaders by drawing inspiration from untold stories and unheard struggles of celebrated personalities.

Chief guest

This year's chief guest is noted singer and composer Raghu Dixit. The venue is the auditorium, St. Joseph's College, No. 36, Lalbagh Road, at 4 p.m.

THE HINDU
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PSI recruitment scam: Second notice served on Priyank

In reply to first notice, he alleged Govt. was trying to 'scuttle free speech'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has served a second notice to Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee spokesperson and former Minister Priyank Kharge in connection with alleged malpractices in the examination for the recruitment of 545 police sub-inspectors (PSIs). This was hours after he had replied to the first notice, explaining why he did not appear before the CID.

Speaking to media representatives in Kalaburagi on Thursday, the Congress MLA said that the notice was handed over to him by a CID officer at Bengaluru airport when he was on his way to Kalaburagi.

Priyank Kharge

Why not others?

The Congress MLA asked why the CID had not arrested BJP leader Divya Hagaragi (chairperson of Gyan Jyoti English Medium School where exam malpractices were reported), and why notices had not been served to Minister Prabhu Chauhan and BJP MLC Sankanur, who had also written to the Chief Minister and Home Minister, demanding an investigation into the alleged irregularities.

He asked the investigation agency to look beyond Kalaburagi so that more light could be shed on the case and more people, who were involved in the irregularities, could be arrested.

In his earlier reply to the CID, in response to the notice issued to him to appear and submit documents pertaining to the alleged scam, he said the investigating agency is required to discharge its functions and duty strictly in accordance with statutes and law. The notice was served to him after he held a press conference in which he had referred to the *modus operandi* of culprits and said that the investigation agency has to cast its net wide to unearth involvement of higher-ups.

"Perhaps, this is a manner in which the present dispensation wants to scuttle and stifle free speech and in the process destroy the democratic fabric to which all of us are aligned under Constitution," the Chittapur legislator, who earlier refused to appear before the CID, said in his letter to Director-General of Police CID on Thursday.

Pointing to Section 91 of the Criminal Procedure Code referred in the notice, he said that the provision allows the CID the power to summon a person to produce a document or a thing. "In the present instance, your notice being vague and baseless is glaringly in excess of the jurisdiction bestowed upon you by Section 91. You have issued notice not for the purpose of any free and fair investigation, but to placate your political bosses to whom I stand as political opponent," he said, adding that such exercise of power is not only illegal but also gross abuse of process of law.

Not new

"To summon me or have my attendance as a witness, you must have information to believe that I am acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case. The present scam is not new in public domain and was first raised by Minister Prabhu Chauhan and later a BJP legislator, both of whom have written to the Chief Minister and Home Minister," said Mr. Kharge.

Instead of investigating the crime in earnest, the police are using the notice as a tool to stifle his fundamental right and the right as a member of Opposition to raise issues of corruption, maladministration and criminal misconduct of the executive and political executive, he said.

Speaking at Kalaburagi, Mr. Kharge said, "Serving notices to those demanding an impartial investigation and justice to genuine candidates is an attempt to divert public attention from the real culprits." He demanded a court-monitored investigation and the establishment of a fast-track court to hear the case.

One more held

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

The Criminal Investigation Department on Thursday arrested Jyoti Patil, a staff attached to Shahbad Municipal Corporation, in connection with the alleged malpractices in recruitment exams to police sub-inspector posts.

According to sources, Ms. Patil helped in providing Bluetooth devices during examination to a candidate Shanti Bai Basnayak, at Gyan Jyoti English Medium School during the recruitment exam.

Ms. Patil worked in the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms for some period, before being transferred to Shahbad Municipal Corporation.

Property to be seized

Meanwhile, taking exception to Mr. Kharge not appearing before the CID, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said Mr. Kharge should furnish documents, if any, related to the episode.

He said Divya Hagaragi would be arrested soon. He told reporters in Bengaluru that measures would be taken to confiscate her property as per law if she fails to surrender.

CM backs Sudeep on language debate

Nirani says Hindi is national language but priority is for Kannada

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI/MYSURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday endorsed actor Sudeep's statement on the primacy of Kannada and said that everyone should understand and respect his views. His Cabinet colleague and Large and Medium Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani, meanwhile, described Hindi as a "national language" but went on to add that first priority is for Kannada.

> **In each State, the regional language that is the mother tongue of the people enjoys primacy. That is why actor Sudeep's statement on the primacy of Kannada is right. Everyone should understand and respect his views.**
>
> BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
> Chief Minister

Hindi actor Ajay Devgn and Kannada actor Sudeep on Wednesday were embroiled in a Twitter war over language issue after the latter said that Hindi was "no longer a national language" in the context of the success of several southern films in Hindi. Devgn responded to this with a tweet in Hindi saying Hindi "was, is and will be" the national language, setting off a debate.

Backing Sudeep, the Chief Minister said regional language was most important as the States were divided on linguistic basis.

Speaking to reporters in Hubballi, the Chief Minister said, "The States of India were formed on the basis of language. In each State, the regional language that is the mother tongue of the people enjoys primacy. That is why actor Sudeep's statement on the primacy of Kannada is right. Everyone should understand and respect his views."

Meanwhile, speaking to mediapersons in Mysuru on Thursday, Mr. Nirani described Hindi as a national language but was quick to add that first priority is for Kannada. When pressed further, he said "Kannada is our mother tongue and one has to compulsorily learn it but we also need Hindi and there was nothing wrong in learning other languages as well. The more languages we learn the more we enrich ourselves. For international communication we also need English."

Thursday saw former Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah and H.D. Kumaraswamy objecting to Ajay Devgn's remarks on Hindi and Kannada and supported Sudeep. Many people from the Kannada film industry and outside in Karnataka had expressed support to him.

Lending an ear

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai listening to grievances of people at the airport in Hubballi on Thursday. •KIRAN BAKALE

Bommai for Delhi today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will leave for Delhi on Friday to participate in a conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers.

When asked if he would meet Central leaders, Mr. Bommai said, "I have not given any thought to it. I have not sought time to meet the high command."

Ministerial aspirants are anxiously waiting for the Chief Minister to meet Central leaders to complete the process of consultations regarding the expansion. However, the Chief Minister has made it clear that he has been asked to meet the leaders in Delhi only after they hold a preliminary meeting.

Dairy farmers demand withdrawal of anti-cow slaughter legislation

State Government accused of adopting dual stand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Accusing the Government of creating fear psychosis among farmers using the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, a convention of dairy farmers has demanded that the legislation be scrapped at the earliest in their interest.

The convention held in Chickballapur on Thursday alleged that police were harassing farmers by using the provisions of the legislation.

> **While farmers are under watch by banning cow slaughter, the sale and export of beef by corporates has not been banned.**
>
> DAIRY FARMERS

Resolution adopted

A resolution adopted at the convention accused the Government of adopting a dual stand with respect to farmers and corporates. "While farmers are under watch by banning cow slaughter, the sale and export of beef by corporates has not been banned," the resolution said.

This had clearly shown that the Government was protecting the interests of corporates who were exporting beef. At the same time, it had snatched the right of farmers as well as poor sections, the resolution said.

Pointing out that farmers were banned from selling their cows to slaughter houses even if they were infertile, the resolution expressed concern that this would result in more number of farmers, particularly dairy farmers, quitting agriculture and allied activities.

The resolution demanded that the Government should buy infertile cows from farmers at market rates till it withdrew the legislation.

The resolution expressed concern that even the transport of cattle had become difficult as farmers needed to take permission from various authorities concerned even for it.

The legislation had resulted in dairy farmers being gripped by fear of police as it had provisions to imprison violators for seven years besides slapping huge penalties, the resolution said. Such provisions had also affected cattle trade, it said, and demanded that the legislation should be withdrawn without any delay.

ADGP transfer is a routine one: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after shunting out Additional Director-General of Police (Recruitment) Amrit Paul, that has come close on the heels of an alleged scam in recruitment of police sub-inspectors, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai maintained that the transfer was a routine administrative measure.

"It was time for some ADGPs' transfer," the Chief Minister said, while trying to downplay his transfer that has been linked to the alleged scam. When his attention was drawn to criticism by the Congress over providing a key post to the ADGP, who is in the dock, the Chief Minister said, "If you do not transfer somebody, they will ask why. If you transfer, then too they would have an issue."

Siddaramaiah tweets

Earlier in the day, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah tweeted stating that Mr. Paul is being "rewarded" by transferring him to the important and sensitive Internal Security Division. "What does this indicate? Is he posted there to protect himself & @BJP4Karnataka leaders from being exposed?" he asked.

State to set up panel to contain hate speech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said Karnataka will follow all the directions of the Supreme Court on containing hate crimes by forming a State-level committee.

"Such crimes are increasing in some States. They are being fanned by social media. We will, therefore, take strict steps to control them. We will form a committee as per the SC's directions," he said.

Reacting to a statement by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on rising communal hatred in some States, Mr. Bommai said, "We should not indulge in advising others about such things. We should all do our duty. India is a far more tolerant country than many others. We are accepting of various religions and treat people of all faiths equally."

Sumalatha ambivalent on joining BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Mandya MP Sumalatha said on Thursday that reports that she would join the Bharatiya Janata Party were mere speculation.

The speculations gained credence following the remarks by C.P. Yogeshwar, MLC, that the BJP had extended an invitation to her.

But the Mandya MP – who was elected as an Independent candidate in the 2019 parliamentary elections – remained tight-lipped and ambivalent on the issue.

She told media persons in Mandya that she had met Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai but it only pertained to development of the constituency. "I met Mr. Bommai as he is the Chief Minister and not as a BJP leader," she said.

Ms. Sumalatha said it was true that Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan had remarked that she was welcome to join the BJP.

But it was a general statement and she had not given a serious thought to it. "Besides, such general invitations are extended by other parties as well given the rapport my husband had with everyone and I will take a decision at a later stage after discussing the issue with my supporters," she added.

Congress urges Prime Minister to scrap GST on printing paper

Ex-CM makes appeal to ensure survival of print media

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to remove GST on printing paper (news print) to ensure the survival of print media.

> **Most of the imports are from Russia and Europe, and, with the ongoing war, supply has been disrupted. It has to be noted that most of the newspapers depend on imported paper (news print) for quality reasons, as paper manufactured in India mostly comes from the recycling process.**
>
> SIDDARAMAIAH
> Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly

"Most of the imports are from Russia and Europe, and, with the ongoing war, supply has been disrupted. It has to be noted that most of the newspapers depend on imported paper (news print) for quality reasons, as paper manufactured in India mostly comes from the recycling process," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Price doubled

The cost of printing paper has doubled in two years. The increase in GST has caused a huge burden on print media houses, he said.

"It is the duty of any government to ensure the survival of this pillar of democracy through necessary reforms," the Congress leader said in a letter to Mr Modi.

"The tax on printing paper for agencies registered with the Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI) before GST was at 3%, and it was increased to 5% under the GST system. This amounts to a 68% increase in taxes on printing paper," the Congress leader said.

"GST for unregistered agencies is 12%. As there is no mechanism to differentiate between registered and unregistered agencies at the point of purchase, the unregistered agencies are purchasing printing paper at 5% instead of 12%, creating a shortage of paper for registered agencies. This shortage has also resulted in an increase in the cost of printing paper as well," he explained.

The drastic increase in printing prices is due to supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, labour shortage, raw material cost, shortage of shipping containers and fuel price hike, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
[SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT NO. 3 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 20/04/2022]
CMP No. 241/2019
[VIDEO CONFERENCING]
PETITIONER/S: SRI. M VINOD AND ANOTHER
-V/s-
RESPONDENT/S: NITESH URBAN DEVELOPMENT PRIVATE LIMITED AND OTHERS
TO, RESPONDENT NO. 3: R-3, VISTRA ITCL (INDIA) LIMITED, A COMPANY INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956 BENGALURU BRANCH OFFICE AT A1 LATHEEF, 1ST FLOOR, No.2 UNION STREET, OFF. INFANTRY ROAD BENGALURU - 560 001. REPRESENTED BY ITS DIRECTOR ... RESPONDENT/S
Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court Under Section 11(6) of Arbitration and Conciliation Act. 1996 as in the copy annexed hereunto.
Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter on 25/05/2022 at 10:30 A.M in case you intend to contest the Petition. If you fail to appear, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the 26th Day of April 2022.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Under the instructions of my client Sri.Tarun I Kripalani Notice is hereby given to the public at large that I, Sri. Tarun I Kripalani, aged about 50 years, son of late Indru I Kripalani, Residing at No. 201-9/3, 'Sri Nilaya Apartments'2nd 'B' Cross, Banaswadi Main Road Bangalore - 560043 Contact Tel no : 9845177196 (Tarun Kripalani), have lost the Original Deed of Sale dated 19-09-1995, (registered as Document No.7144/1995-96, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru executed by Sri B.M Shivaram S/o Late R. Muniswamappa claiming to be the absolute owner, in favour of my client Father Sri Indru I Kripalani. My client have also lodged a Police complaint vide Lost Report No. 0209942/2022 at Banaswadi Police Station, situated at 5th 'A' Main Road, HRBR Layout 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar Bangalore - 560043. Any person finding the original document of sale deed dated 19.09.1995, is hereby requested to hand over the same to me or my client at the above given address or to the Banaswadi police station with a request to hand over the same to me. Bangalore 26-04-2022.
Sd/- SHIVANNA GOWDA H.S
C.R.GOPALASWAMY & ASSTS.
Advocates,
No.7, 1st Cross, N.S. Iyengar Street
Behind Sheshadripuram College
Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560 020
Phone: 9844323891
Email: crgopalswamy@gmail.com

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur
(An Autonomous Institute under the MoHFW, GoI)
No.03/02/2022/Recruit/Reg/301 Date: 28.04.2022
SR RECRUITMENT NOTICE
AIIMS, Raipur invites application in the prescribed format from Indian Nationals for the post of Senior Resident (Non-Acad.) [Total: 138(UR-32, EWS-14, OBC-48, SC-30, ST-14)] including 05 posts for PwBD, under Govt. of India Residency Scheme for various departments in AIIMS Raipur.
The pay scale is of Rs. 67,700/- (Level-11, Cell No. 01 As per 7th CPC) plus usual allowances including NPA (if applicable). Candidates can apply through the link available on AIIMS, Raipur website www.aiimsraipur.edu.in till 09.05.2022.
For departments, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, please visit website. All the notification, amendment, corrigendum etc. related to this advertisement, if any, will be published only in the website.
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NOTIFICATION
As per section 59 of the KSU Act 2000, applications are invited for the year 2022-23 from a Registered Society/ Trust/Institution to start New Colleges/UG and PG Courses and Continuation /Extension/Permanent Affiliation/Continuation of Permanent Affiliation/Increase of Students intake within Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri and Karwar districts coming under Karnatak University Jurisdiction.
For getting more information visit KUD website www.kud.ac.in and contact CDC/Affiliation section, Karnatak University, Dharwad (Ph. No.0836 2215215/353).
Sd/- REGISTRAR
Karnatak University,Dharwad

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS - ITEM WAR (Two Cover System)
E Submission (Short term)

IFB No.	01 / T. HWS & FMP-Ph-2 / DO2 / CE / VLR / 2022 Dated : 27.04.2022
Fund	Jal Jeevan Mission 2022 - 23
Eligibility	[illegible]
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Vellore – 632006.
Downloading Period of Bid document	29.04.2022 to 13.05.2022 upto 17.45 Hours (as per server time)
Available Website	E-Tendering Website: www.tntenders.gov.in
Pre Bid Meeting	06.05.2022 at 11.00 Hours at Office of the Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Vellore –632 006.
Bid Submission	14.05.2022 upto 15.00 Hours Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website www.tntenders.gov.in.
Bid Opening	16.05.2022 at 15.30 Hours at the Office of the Tender Invitee through E-Tendering website.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Probable Amount of Consultancy (Rs. Lakhs including GST@18%)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Engaging External Engineering Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Multi Village Schemes in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts (Hogenakkal CWSS PHASE–II) – Period of Completion – 3 Months	640.00	4.60

DIPR/ 2071 /TENDER/2022 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Vellore-6.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

29.04.2021
In Loving Memory of our Son
K Sundar Raj (SPM Postal Department)
Remembered by:
Parents G Kantharaj, K SundariKanthan,
Wife: Prathima D and Sons,KGF

Three in Kerala have Shigella symptoms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

Shigella bacterial infection has been reported in Kerala's Kozhikode after a gap of around a-year-and-a-half as three children from the district were found to have its symptoms.

According to sources, one child from Eranhikkal and two others from Atholi have been infected. Though another child from Eranhikkal has similar symptoms, the test results are yet to be out.

The child from Eranhikkal had sought treatment at a primary health centre for diarrhoea. The infection was confirmed after stool samples were sent for lab tests. The child is reported to have participated in a feast.

The two children at Atholi belong to the same family and the source of the infection remains unclear.

First debate on SilverLine constructive

Supporters of the K-Rail project point out the impracticalities of the alternatives suggested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The first open debate on SilverLine by the K-Rail here on Thursday was more constructive than confrontational. Environmental scientist R.V.G. Menon, a critic of the project, put forward an alternative for the SilverLine by drawing third and fourth lines in parallel to the existing lines without curves to attain high speed on broad gauge lines.

Deep discussion: Panelists sharing their views during the first open debate on SilveLine project in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For instance, the third and fourth lines can be drawn between Ernakulam and Shoranur without stops, or perhaps a stop at Chalakudy other than Thrissur. In some places it may move away from existing lines, but by integrating stations at required points, Railways can ensure the inter-operability of services, he said, adding the same can be done southward from Ernakulam and northward from Shoranur. The cost of this has to be analysed in comparison with the SilverLine cost. He also criticised the government for the delay in executing rail works.

Replying to this, Subodh Kumar Jain, former member of the Railway Board, said it was an excellent suggestion and could be done even now. "Here the main issue is that Indian Railways' priority is always on freight movement and it is more interested in developing areas where more income is generated, which can be understood from the allocation of funds for the rail development projects. In Kerala, the freight contribution is meagre compared to other parts of country and this is a main reason for the delay in railway development here. I have not seen a single curve being straightened by Railways for increasing the speed of passenger trains," he said.

Dr. Menon asked why K-Rail was insisting on standard gauge when the broad gauge can ensure seamless travel to other States by integrating lines. Mr. Jain replied that for dedicated passenger traffic, standard gauge was more feasible than broad gauge, which was more suitable for freight movement. "Should Kerala borrow money from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) by allowing them to dump obsolete technology here with a lot of strings," asked Dr. Menon.

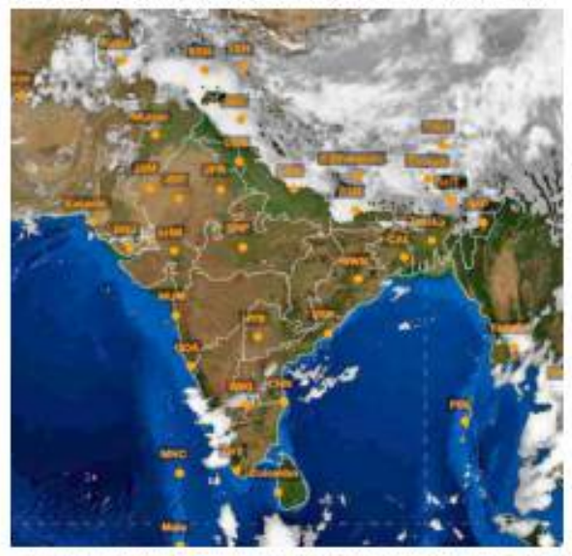
Mr. Jain replied that the technology was not obsolete. Railways had in 2017 mulled switching all the metro and passenger trains to standard gauge. It was true to some extent that loans often came with strings attached. But in the recent past no loans with riders were being taken.

There was no major response to questions raised by Dr. Menon on the environmental challenges posed by the project.

Former Digital University Kerala Vice Chancellor Kuncheira P. Isaac suggested constructing lines on viaducts in areas vulnerable to floods. S.N. Raghuchandran Nair, president of the Trivandrum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, suggested constructing lines in a phased manner at first and extending them to new areas based on demand.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	36.8	26.6	Kozhikode	–	37.2	29.4
Ahmedabad	–	44.1	26.1	Kurnool	–	43.3	29.5
Aizawl	–	34.1	20.1	Lucknow	–	43.8	23.7
Allahabad	–	45.9	24.8	Madurai	–	38.2	26.5
Bengaluru	–	34.7	24.2	Mangaluru	–	34.6	27.3
Bhopal	–	43.3	24.2	Mumbai	–	37.0	25.8
Bhubaneswar	–	39.8	28.4	Mysuru	–	36.0	22.0
Chandigarh	–	42.9	25.1	New Delhi	–	43.5	23.0
Chennai	–	37.6	27.0	Patna	–	39.0	25.9
Coimbatore	–	36.8	25.6	Port Blair	–	34.6	26.9
Dehradun	–	38.8	20.3	Puducherry	–	35.5	26.4
Gangtok	–	23.5	14.9	Pune	–	41.7	24.5
Goa	–	34.4	26.8	Raipur	–	44.1	26.5
Guwahati	–	31.8	22.3	Ranchi	–	41.2	24.5
Hubballi	–	35.0	23.0	Shillong	–	26.0	17.1
Hyderabad	–	40.8	29.2	Shimla	–	32.7	22.1
Imphal	–	32.4	20.5	Srinagar	–	27.6	12.2
Jaipur	–	43.1	28.7	Thiruvananthapuram	–	34.0	26.1
Kochi	–	33.0	28.0	Tiruchi	–	40.1	27.0
Kohima	–	27.1	–	Vijayawada	–	39.0	27.0
Kolkata	–	38.3	28.3	Visakhapatnam	–	36.6	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	13	–	251	153	
Bengaluru	–	78	–	63	140	
Chennai	17	11	35	64	62	
Delhi	36	163	58	305	342	
Hyderabad	5	22	35	120	119	
Kolkata	17	21	28	75	108	
Lucknow	19	133	63	376	279	
Mumbai	6	23	24	151	147	
Pune	23	83	118	220	116	
Visakhapatnam	22	44	51	42	103	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 349 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Puducherry recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Questions galore over declassifying deemed forests

Conservationists fear it may legalise large-scale encroachments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Conservationists aver the State Government's decision to declassify nearly 6.5 lakh acres of deemed forests and transfer it to the Revenue Department will legalise large-scale encroachment by the powerful under the fig leaf of securing the rights of the poor.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said that he signed a Cabinet decision to release 6.5 lakh acres of land from deemed forest classification and will submit an affidavit to the Supreme Court.

A section of Forest Department officials too concur with the view and said on conditions of anonymity that though the State Government has taken the decision, the status does not change on the ground unless approved by the Supreme Court.

Activists working at the ground level said at a time when there was growing global consciousness of issues such as climate change and global warming, the Karnataka Government was taking a regressive step by declassifying deemed forest instead of increasing forest cover.

Conservation activist D.V. Girish said what the Government has set out to do is to convert what is essentially public land at present to private lands. These are contentious issues as it is tantamount to legalising illegal encroachment and goes against the grain of the law.

Evidence

Another conservationist said as the issue involved 6.5 lakh acres, the Government should furnish evidence of how many poor people are utilising the land and the extent of ownership claimed by them.

"One cannot accept at face value that all the 6.5 lakh acres is held by the poor. There will be rich corporates and real estate tycoons apart from powerful politicians claiming ownership of the deemed forest and could be influencing Government decision", said the activist.

Citing an example he pointed out that there was a case of 200 people sustaining themselves on 400 acres of land in a swathe of about 1,000 acres of deemed forest in South Karnataka region. But the remaining 600 acres was encroached by 15 people and the second lot was not dependent on it for survival, said the activist.

Forest Department officials argued that in case 6.5 lakh acres of deemed forest was declassified, then finding land for rehabilitation of forest dwellers will be a tough proposition in future. The deemed forest land also acted as a buffer zone to protected areas and could be part of wildlife corridor. In view of escalating human-animal conflict it would be imprudent to declassify 6.5 lakh acres without ascertaining the exact location and the characteristic of the land.

A senior official said the Government decision goes against the spirit of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, which was enacted to prevent deforestation and arrest ecological imbalance. The law also calls or provisions to conserve forest irrespective of the nature of ownership or its classification.

Google to have massive campus in Hyderabad

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Google is all set to have a massive campus in Hyderabad, the largest outside its U.S. headquarters in Mountain View.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Country Head and Vice President of Google Sanjay Gupta said that the new campus could accommodate thousands of people over the next few years, as India and Google grow.

The new campus, spread over 7.3 acres, is in addition to the approximately 3 million sq.ft. built up area of Google offices across India.

Coal India Limited
(A Maharatna Company)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd www.coalindia.in/ respective Subsidiary Company. CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in".

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client **Mr. B. Muniyappa** is the absolute owner of the Schedule property and original Allotment Letter issued by BDA dated 07/07/2001 bearing No. BDA/ADM/DS-2/1291/AP/VIII/ 2001-02 in respect of the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder is lost from our client while traveling, and our client had filed a complaint in respect of this to Bengaluru City police Unit immediately after coming to his knowledge.

Any person/s having found the same may kindly be returned to the undersigned or to the jurisdictional police within 7 days from the date of this publication and if any person misusing the original one shall be prosecuted and if any one entering into any transaction without our client's knowledge with any third party our client shall not be responsible for the same.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

Site No. 1291, situated at 8th Block, Anjanapura Layout, measuring East to West 18 Meters North to South 12 Meters and bounded on;
East : Site No. 24, **West :** Road, **North :** Site No 1290, **South :** Site No. 1292

Sd/- **Akhila & Associates, Advocates**
#121, LRDE Layout Doddanekkundi, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037.
Phone: 9741300393

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client **Mrs. Gargi Sharma** is the absolute owner of the Schedule property and original Sale Deed dated 13/06/2012 bearing No. BDH-1-01416/2012-13 in favour of erstwhile owner Mr. Salil Shukla in respect of the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder is lost from our client while traveling, and our client had filed a complaint in respect of this to Bengaluru City police Unit immediately after coming to her knowledge.

Any person/s having found the same may kindly be returned to the undersigned or to the jurisdictional police within 7 days from the date of this publication and if any person misusing the original one shall be prosecuted and if any one entering into any transaction without our client's knowledge with any third party our client shall not be responsible for the same.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

Flat No. A-0102 First Floor, 'A' Block, measuring Super built up area of 1453 Sq. feet project known as 'NITESH FOREST HILLS', with One covered car Parking space together with 590 Sq. feet undivided share, in the land measuring totally 06 Acres 30 Guntas comprised in Sy.Nos.120/1, 120/2, 120/3, 123/1, 123/2 and 123/3 at Sheegehalli Village, Bidarahalli hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, (converted vide O.M. bearing No.ALN (E) (B) SR/34/05-06 dated 30/03/2007, No. BDS.ALN (E) VB/ SR84 / 05-06 dated 07/10/2005, No.BDS.ALN. (E) VB/ SR.85/ 05-06 dated 07/10/2005, No. BDS.ALN(E) VR/ SR-66/05-06 dated 07/10/2005.

Sd/- **Akhila & Associates, Advocates**
#121, LRDE Layout Doddanekkundi, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037.
Phone: 9741300393

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
[SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT NO. 3 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 20/04/2022]
CMP No. 240/2019
[VIDEO CONFERENCING]
PETITIONER/S: Mr K. ANAND KUMAR AND OTHERS
-V/s-
RESPONDENT/S: NITESH URBAN DEVELOPMENT PRIVATE LIMITED AND OTHERS
TO, **RESPONDENT NO. 3:**
R-3. VISTRA ITCL (INDIA) LIMITED, A COMPANY INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956 BENGALURU BRANCH OFFICE AT A1 LATHEEF, 1st FLOOR, No.2 UNION STREET, OFF. INFANTRY ROAD, BENGALURU - 560 001.
.. **RESPONDENT/S**
Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court Under Section 11(6) of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 as in the copy annexed hereunto.
Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter on **25/05/2022** AT 10:30 A.M in case you intend to contest the Petition. If you fail to appear, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the 26th Day of April 2022.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No.: BDA/TPM/CLU-11/150/2021-22 Date: 26.04.2022
PUBLIC NOTICE
(Under Section 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961)
Sri. Harikrishna R have requested for change of land use to Commercial purpose as per section 14-A of KTCP Act 1961 in Sy No. 104 & 105 measuring an Extent of 01 Acre 18 Guntas (5867.89 Sqmtr) of Thimmasandra Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru District which is earmarked as **Agriculture Zone in RMP-2015.**
Applicant in his application has stated that, if the land is allowed for change of land use from Agriculture to Commercial purpose use, a) Developing this land to commercial purpose will provide daily needs of Rsidents around the area. b) Developing this land to commercial purpose will provide employment to public. c) Employment will be available during developing of this land. d) Developing this land will make surrounding area developed. Further, required under Section 14-A of Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961 any person/ persons affected by this proposal may file his/her/ their objections if any, can submit written objections to the Town Planner Member, BDA, Bengaluru within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The objections received after 15 days will not be considered.
Sd/- Town Planner Member, BDA, Bengaluru
BDA/PRO/CLU/15/2022-23

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.
No: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/02/2022-23
Dated: 27-04-2022
SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited through E-Procurement for the works approved Under Various Head of grants for the year 2021-22. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 05-05-2022 upto 4.00 PM.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit Website: **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division
Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/333/Adveno/2022-23
HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KANNADA BOOK AUTHORITY
Kannada Bhavan, 1st Floor, J.C.Road, Bengaluru – 560 002 Ph: 080-22107704 / 22484516
Website: www.kannadapustakapradhikara.com e-mail: kannadappradhikara@gmail.com
No. KBA/54/V.R.T/2021-22 Date 28.04.2022
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Kannada Book Authority is inviting e-tender for the financial year 2022-23 from travel agencies for vehicle (Car with A/C) on rental basis for the usage of The Administrative Officer, Kannada Pustaka Pradhikara, Approximate value of the tender is Rs. 40,000/- per month (Rupees Forty Thousand only). Tax extra E-Tender documents and other details are available at **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for further details contact The Administrative Office, Kannada Pustaka Pradhikara, Kannada Bhavan, 1st Floor, J.C.Road, Bengaluru – 560 002 Ph: 080-22107704 / 22484516 Website: **www.kannadapustakapradhikara.com**
Sd/- Administrative Officer
Kannada Book Authority
DIPR/CP/Adwtl/327/2022-23

KKRTC CIVIL DIVISION, KALABURAGI
MSK Mill Road, Jewargi Cross Kalaburagi.
No: KKT/EEG/KLB/DB/ 66 /2022-23 Date: 28/04/2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 07/2021-22 (CALL -2)
Through GOK e-procurement platform
www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Eligible Class-I Contractors/Firms registered in Karnataka at KPWD/CPWD / MES are hereby invited for the below civil works in Two cover system through E-procurement portal mode.
1) Name of work: **Construction of RTO office at Bidar,** 2) Amount put to Tender (Rs in lakhs) : **750.00,** 3) Last date for receipt of tenders : 12-05-2022
The tender schedule will be available on the web site mentioned as below.
www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in,
Telephone No. 08472-220663
Sd/-
DIP/Kalaburagi/92/MC&A/2022-23 **Executive Engineer**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: AEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE/AEE-1/F-35/22-23/274-76 Date: 27.04.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-procurement portal only)
KPTCL invites bid against bid enq.No.KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-1/SASETHERNET/EPR-278/**CALL-3** Dtd: 25.04.2022 for **Replacement of faulty SAS Ethernet switches and network cable and re-structuring the network architecture of existing SAS at 220/66/11kv R/S Dabaspet, TL&SS Nelamangala on Total Turn Key Basis. Amount put to tender Rs.26,29,269.00 and EMD amount Rs.26,293.00.** The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging into KPTCL **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on Hyperlink **"e-prourement-KPTCL" or https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 16.30 Hrs 29.04.2022.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elec, Tr (Maint),
Ramanagara Circle, 220/66/11kV,
Vrushabhavati Valley, Mysuru Road,
Bengaluru-26. Phone: 080-29620155

OFFICE OF THE CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BASAVAKALYAN, DIST: BIDAR
Ph:(08481)-250201, Website: www.basavakalyancity.gov.in
Email: itstaff_ulb_basavakalyan@yahoo.com
No. CMC/BSK/Tender/Goods /CR-10/2022-23 Date: 25.04.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT)
1) Works/Goods/Services Details: Indent DMA/2019-20/IND10312 call4, "Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Screening machine with 35mm, 16mm and 4mm to Basavakalyana.". 2) Works/Goods/Services Details Amount : **Rs. 95.00 lakhs,** 3) Contractor Eligibility Details : As per e-portal, 4) Works/Goods/Services put to Tender Amount: As per e-portal, 5) Last Date for Receipt of Tender Application: 12.05.2022 4.30 PM, 6) Tender Rate and EMD Details: As per e-portal, 7) Last Date for uploading for completed tender document: 12.05.2022 4.30 PM, 8) Date of Opening of tender : 13.05.2022 5.00 PM, 9) Tender condition and further information can be obtained from the said office : 08481 250201, 10) Web Site: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
DIPR/Bidar/47/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC, Basavakalyan**

"ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ"
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
Office of the Executive Engineer
KBJNL, ARBC Division, Hungund.Phone : 08351 261110.
No: KBJNL/ARBC-DN/TND/2021-22/132 Date:26/04/2022
SHORT TERMS TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)
On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore/Almatti the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ARBC Division, Hungund the under signed invites tenders for below Approved program of works list, SCP&TSP works, from Registered KPWD/catagary contractors. 1) I.No-21570-Call-3, 2) I.No-21571-Call-3, 3) I.N0-21572-Call-3, 4) I.No-21575-Call-3, & 5) I.No-21576-Call-3 (Minimum 53.44 Lakhs and Maximum 65.01 Lakhs) bidder can access the e-tendering from 26.04.2022 to 04.05.2022. The Technical Bid will be opened on 06.05.2022 at 11.45 AM in division office and Financial Bid will be opened on 09.05.2022 at 11.45 AM. For other more details please visit web site http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/e-portal/index and any other clarifications, contact the under signed office during office hours.
Sd- Executive Engineer
DIPR/BGK/BD-NO-63/MCA/2022-23 **KBJNL, ARBC Division, Hungund.**

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL GRBCC Div No 3
Gokak. District:Belagavi, State:Karnataka. Ph No:08332-225213
No : KNNL/GRBCCD-3/DB/Chachadi LIS Tender/2022-23/ 1 Dt :27-04-2022
SHORTTERM PERCENTAGE BASED TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-2) (Through E-Procurement only)
On behalf of the Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC DIVISION NO-3 Gokak, Belagavi District in Karnataka State invites tender on percentage basis on e-procurement portal for the Chachadi LIS.
Number of work : 1 (One).
1)Amount Put to Tender (Approximately): Rs: 651.57 Lakhs.
The Contractor can have access to the e-tender document, i.e. the tender schedules, EMD, bid documents and any other documents, in the web site http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on payment of transaction fee. (Non-refundable) The submission of completed tender documents through e-portal from Dt: 29-04-2022 to 07-05-2022 upto 4.00 PM. Further information can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL GRBCC DIVISION NO-3, Gokak, Belagavi District during office hours. Phone No: 08332-225213 & e-mail Id:knnlgrbccd3.gokak@gmail.com. Corrigendum /Addendum or any modifications of this tender will be published in the web site of e-procurement, e-portal only. No further news paper publication.
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
DIPR/BGM/NO-NO-152/MCA/2022-23 **KNNL,GRBCC Division No.3, Gokak**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-2:Tender-01:2022-23/210 Dated:- 22.04.2022
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through e-Procurement Portal as per standard tender documents rules.
Name of work:- Two cover System:- Head of Account:- 3054-04-337-0-05-200 SH Flood work:- (1) Repairs to Flood Damaged Road from SH-153 Singenahalli to SH-48 Near Kasturi ba Nagar Via Talikatte, Malladihalli, Ramaghatta and HireEmmiganuru from Km 8.00 to 14.80 in Selected Reaches (Proposed From Km 11.70 to 12.91 and Km 14.40 to 15.56) in Chitradurga District, Holalkere Taluk. (W.I. 151603) **Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:- 100.00**
Head of Account 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Flood Work:- (2) Repairs to Flood Damaged Road from SH-47 Holalkere Town to Hanumali Road Via Avalihatti, Malenahalli, Nulenuru, Rangapura Road Malenahalli to Nulenuru in Selected Reaches (Proposed From Km 13.49 to 14.50) in Chitradurga District, Holalkere Taluk. (W.I. 151604) **Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:- 100.00**
Tenders dates are as mentioned below: (1) Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 09-05-2022 Time: 17.30 (2) Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 10-05-2022 Time: 16.00 (3) Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 11-05-2022 Time: 16.01 (4) Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 13-05-2022 Time: 11.00 Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.
DIPR/CTA/MCA/71/2022-23 Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Chitradurga.

In haste

India could have waited for evidence of benefit of vaccinating all children

The emergency use authorisation (EUA) granted on April 26 to two COVID-19 vaccines – Corbevax for children 5-11 years, and Covaxin for children 6-11 years – is one more instance where the Indian drug regulator has acted in haste. Even if the EUA granted to Covaxin in January 2021 despite no safety and efficacy data of the phase-3 trial is condoned as a desperate measure in ensuring greater vaccine availability, the regulator clearly has no fig leaf to defend the greenlighting of the vaccines for children at this stage. Evidence from across the world after the deadly Delta variant and the extremely transmissive Omicron variant has shown that unlike adults, children in general, and little children in particular, do not suffer from severe disease. The ICMR's fourth seroprevalence survey (June-July 2021) soon after the second wave peaked nationally found that 57.2% of children (6-9 years) and 61.6% of children (10-17 years) were infected by SARS-CoV-2 virus; seroprevalence among adults was 66.7%. Since vaccination of adolescents began only in early January 2022, the antibodies detected in children in mid-2021 were only from infection by the virus. The extremely infectious Omicron variant would have infected an even larger percentage of children. Yet, the number of severe cases and deaths in children 5-11 years has been very low. True, with schools reopening, children could be at greater risk of contracting infection. But with natural infection found to offer protection across age groups, India could have waited for validation of the available evidence on the vaccines for children.

Unlike in January 2021 when approving vaccines for adults as soon as possible was the highest priority, and hence the EUA based on fewer cases and short follow-ups was seen as a necessity, the situation is not the same now, especially in the case of children as young as five. Hence, the regulator's urgency to greenlight vaccines for children under the EUA route is highly questionable. Clinical trial data of Corbevax for children 5-12 years were posted as a preprint, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, on the day approval was granted; trial data of Covaxin for children 2-18 years were posted as a preprint in December 2021. The Health Ministry had already set a precedent last month by clearing Corbevax for children 12-14 years without first seeking the approval of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI), which clears vaccines for the national immunisation programme. With NTAGI clearly against approving vaccines for children, there is every likelihood of the expert body being ignored again. Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message on April 27, a day after the EUA, that every eligible child should be vaccinated at the earliest might prompt the Health Ministry to sidestep the NTAGI once more, thus departing even more from evidence-based policy making.

Myanmar's woes

Silencing Ms. Suu Kyi will not help the junta tighten its control over a rebellious country

The conviction of Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's deposed State Counsellor and pro-democracy leader, in a corruption case, shows nothing but the desperation of the junta to silence her. For the military, which seems determined to destroy the Southeast Asian nation's popular democracy, Ms. Suu Kyi, under house arrest ever since the February 2021 coup, remains the enemy number one. The conviction, in a kangaroo court, was based on the testimony of the former Chief Minister of Yangon who claimed that he had handed over to her $6,00,000 and gold in return for favours. The prosecution has presented no evidence. She was convicted earlier on five other charges and sentenced to six years in jail. In the corruption case, the court jailed her for five years. The junta has slapped more cases on her, with the clear objective of keeping the 76-year-old leader in prison. Since the coup, it has arrested 10,300 political prisoners, including most of the elected lawmakers of Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy. The forces have also killed at least 1,798 civilians and threatened to "annihilate" all opponents.

Myanmar's military is one of the most stubborn enemies of democracy and basic human freedoms, having ruled for nearly 50 years using brute force. But even in the darkest moments of Myanmar's past, there was popular resistance. And over the past three decades, Ms. Kyi has been the embodiment of that resistance. Between 1989 and 2010, she spent 15 years under house arrest. The military, faced with international isolation and growing domestic anger, agreed to release her and share power with civilians through a quasi-democratic arrangement. They barred her from becoming President and reserved key portfolios, including the Defence Ministry, for the Generals. Still, the 2015 and 2020 elections saw overwhelming public support for her party, and the country witnessed, barring the military crackdown on Rohingya Muslims, relative stability and growing economic opportunities. But the military was worried whether an increasingly popular and powerful Ms. Suu Kyi, after her second consecutive election, would clip its privileges. It was this fear that prompted the Generals to stage another coup. They may have succeeded in reversing Myanmar's limited experiment with democracy, but the coup has also wreaked havoc on the country. The Opposition has taken up arms, pushing the country to the brink of civil war. A nationwide strike has crippled the country's economy. The political opponents of the coup have also formed an alternative unity government. So far, the military has managed to cling on to power through sheer repression. But it is not a sustainable model. Even silencing Ms. Suu Kyi would not help the junta tighten its control over a divided, impoverished, and rebellious country.

Revisiting death penalty jurisprudence

The top court may have to look at the core question in 'Bachan Singh' — the constitutional validity of the death penalty

KALEESWARAM RAJ

On April 22, a Bench of the Supreme Court of India, led by Justice U.U. Lalit, decided to critically examine the routine and abrupt way in which trial judges often impose the death penalty on convicts. The challenge before the Court in the instant case of *Irfan vs State of Madhya Pradesh* was to identify the mitigating circumstances and to ensure a convict-centric approach so that the imposition of capital punishment becomes rarer, fairer, and principled.

The Court seemed to think that an individualistic approach that examines the social, economic, emotional, and genetic components that constituted the offender rather than the offence, would go a long way in evolving a just and judicious sentencing policy. According to the Court, "a 'one size fit for all' approach while considering mitigating factors during sentencing should end". The Bench indicated the need for mitigation experts to assist trial courts in reaching a correct conclusion on whether one should be sent to the gallows or not.

Recent verdicts as pointers

This is a significant development that can radically alter India's death penalty jurisprudence, by a comprehensive examination of the multi-disciplinary wisdom relating to the crime, the criminal, and the punishment.

An analysis of the possible reasons to avert the death penalty is reflected in a series of recent verdicts such as *Lochan Shrivas vs State of Chhattisgarh* (2021) and *Bhagchandra vs State of Madhya Pradesh* (2021). These reasons might include socio-economic backwardness, mental health, heredity, parenting, socialisation, education, etc.

Needed, a different acumen

According to Section 354(3) in the Code of Criminal Procedure, while imposing the capital punishment, the judge should specify "the special reasons" for doing so. It was in *Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab* (1980) that the Constitution Bench suggested a humane and reformist framework in the matter. It said that the gallows could be resorted to only in the rarest of rare cases, that too when "the alternate option is unquestionably foreclosed". Thus, *Bachan Singh* requires the trial courts not only to examine the gravity of the offence but also the condition and the 'reformability' of the accused. The Court, in *Bachan Singh*, refused to declare the death penalty as unconstitutional. It, nevertheless, tried to reduce the rigour of capital punishment by trying to do away with the indiscriminate use of the penal provisions. It abundantly implied that no person is indubitably 'irreformable'. It had the effect of practically undoing the death penalty provision, if taken in its letter and spirit. The need to have 'unquestionable foreclosure' of 'alternate option' (in the matter of punishment , such as life imprisonment) sets the benchmark for the sentencing court very high and even unattainable. This person-centric approach, for its materialisation, needs a different judicial acumen that recognises the convict in her multitudes.

But the *Bachan Singh* principle was followed more in its breach than in compliance even by the Supreme Court. In *Ravji vs State of Rajasthan* (1995), the Supreme Court said that it is the nature of the crime and not the criminal which is germane for deciding the punishment. This is diametrically opposite to what was laid down in *Bachan Singh*. In *Machhi Singh vs State of Punjab* (1983), the Court indicated that inadequacy of other punishments could justify the death penalty. This too negated

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the humanistic liberalism in *Bachan Singh*. Several other cases also were decided by ignoring the *Bachan Singh* doctrine, as noted by the Supreme Court itself in *Santhosh Kumar Satishbhushan Bariyar vs State of Maharashtra* (2009) and *Rajesh Kumar vs State* (2011). *The Hindu's Frontline* magazine ("A case against the death penalty", issue dated September 7, 2012) had a list of 13 convicts who were directed to be hanged in different reported cases decided by the Supreme Court itself, illegally and erroneously, by discarding the *Bachan Singh* philosophy.

This egregious judicial error will have to be kept in mind while the Court revisits the issues related to mitigating factors and individual-centered sentencing policy in the Irfan case. In the process, it may need to consider concrete guidelines for such policy.

Overuse and misuse

But the Indian experience shows that whenever the Court tries to dilute the harshness of penal provisions by a balancing approach, instead of striking down the provision, the instrumentalities of the state (including the police, the prosecution and the court) continue to overuse or misuse the provisions. The judgment of the top court in *Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar* (1962) is a case in point. The Supreme Court endorsed the validity of the sedition law (Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code) with a rider that it could be invoked only when there is an incitement to violence. But the state seldom acts based on interpretation of the law. Many were booked for the charge of sedition since then for mere words, innocent tweets or harmless jokes. The top court is now seriously considering the need to revisit *Kedar Nath Singh* itself.

It is true that Bachan Singh did not, in concrete terms, elaborate on the mitigating factors and the methods to gather them to avert the death penalty. Nor did it explain the issues such as burden of proof and standard of proof in detail. As argued by Anup Surendranath, Neetika Vishwanath, and Preeti Pratishruti Dash in a recent paper, there could be "gaps within *Bachan Singh* itself". The point, however, is that going by the Indian experience, it may not be enough to provide clarity with respect to the mitigative elements in the matter of sentencing or the method of invoking them. Taking empirical lessons from the fate of *Bachan Singh*, the Supreme Court may have to now ask the more fundamental question posed and negatived in *Bachan Singh* – the question of the constitutional validity of death penalty. The judiciary needs to learn a lot from history.

The poor are most affected

In India, as elsewhere, the poor, rather than the rich, are sent to the gallows. The numbers of the uneducated and the illiterate sentenced to death outweigh those who are educated and literate. In *Williams vs Taylor* (2000), the U.S. Supreme Court said that failure of the defence lawyer in highlighting the mitigating factors that could lead to avoidance of capital punishment makes the legal assistance ineffective. Therefore, it infringes constitutionally guaranteed rights. In the Indian scenario, the legal assistance received by the poor facing serious charges is far from satisfactory. Lack of proper defence results in conviction. And in the matter of sentencing too, the mitigating factors are either not placed before the trial court or not persuaded adequately to convince the trial judge to avoid the death penalty. There is a marked contradiction between the Indian legal plutocracy and the marginalised.

Revisiting the case

The Court, in the instant case, will have to evolve a legal device for procurement of a comprehensive report dealing with the socio-economic and hereditary backgrounds of the accused from experts in the fields of social work, psychiatry, psychology, anthropology, etc. Yet, there could be inherent inequality and arbitrariness in applying the principles because of multiple factors such as failure of the judges, incapacity or backwardness of the parties, inadequacy of defence, deficits in the reports of experts, disparity in practical application of the doctrine, etc. As such, there is a possibility for the new juridical device also meeting the unfortunate fate which the *Bachan Singh* verdict faced. Therefore, the true way ahead is not merely to fill up the blanks in *Bachan Singh* by laying down concrete propositions for assessment of mitigating factors, determination of standard of proof, burden of proof etc. The Court may have to revisit *Bachan Singh* itself in so far as it refused to declare the death penalty as violative of the right to life envisaged under Article 21 of the Constitution. Across the world, 108 nations have abolished death penalty in law and 144 countries have done so in law or practice, according to the Amnesty Report of 2021.

In the Indian context, where judgmental error is quite frequent and the quality of adjudication is not ensured, what is required is a judicial abolition of death penalty. For this, the present matter will have to be referred to a larger Bench, with a view to rectify the foundational omission in *Bachan Singh* – of not explicitly declaring capital punishment as unconstitutional.

Kaleeswaram Raj is a lawyer at the Supreme Court of India

A midterm shellacking or more for the Democrats

Apart from seat losses, the remainder of the Biden presidency could see little to no movement on the legislative agenda

SRIDHAR KRISHNASWAMI

There are few in the Democratic Party in the United States at this point in time who are looking at whether or not the U.S. President, Joseph Biden, will run for re-election in 2024. Instead, all eyes and minds are on the U.S. midterm elections on November 8. The general perception is that Mr. Biden and the Democrats are going to lose more than just their shirts and heading into a situation where the next two years of his tenure will be a lame duck one, with little to no movement on the legislative agenda, especially if the Senate also falls to the Grand Old Party. Almost every one of the polls and pundits have written off the House of Representatives.

An argument that might hold

With minor exceptions, the traditional argument has always been that the President's Party loses the midterm elections; statistics show that since the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt's elections in 1932, this has always been the case. The party of the President has lost House seats in 19 out of 22 midterm polls; and 15 out 22 in the Senate. In 2022, a total of 469 seats are in the reckoning – 435 in the House and 34 in the Senate (14 held by Democrats and 20 by the Grand Old Party). And in November, there are five Republican incumbents not seeking re-election. All eyes are on the Senate where the two parties are tied at 50, with the Republicans looking to gain only one seat to take control of the Chamber.

Polls and Biden's standing

If Mr. Biden is going to take a beating on November 8, he will not be the first; some of his predecessors have had to face the heat as well. In 1994, Bill Clinton lost 54 seats in the House and eight in the Senate; George Bush in 2006 lost 30 in the House and six in the Senate; Barack Obama was swamped in 2010 when he lost 63 in the House and six in the Senate; and during the Donald Trump Presidency, the Republicans lost control of the House as they lost 39 seats but added two in the Senate. But if the President and Democrats are facing special attention this time around, some of it has to do with the fact that the political spectrum is not past the hangover of the 2020 Presidential election and in what the 46th President set out to do in January 2021.

There are at least two things that worry the Democrats. First, the President's standing among

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young Americans: in a latest poll by Harvard's Institute of Politics, only 41% of young Americans approve of Mr. Biden's performance – down from 46% from last fall and 59% from last Spring. There may not be a correlation between the approval standing of young Americans and midterm poll results, but Mr. Biden has to be reminded that in the last presidential elections of 2020, he had the backing of 69% of this category; and his approval rating of the economy is just 34% among young adults. Mr. Biden scores better on his handling of the novel coronavirus pandemic and Ukraine.

Second, Mr. Biden's standing among the minorities (who have always stood by the Democrats) is also falling and alarmingly at that. In the presidential election of 2020, it was estimated that 90% of the African-American community voted for Mr. Biden; but since 2021, the approval rating of the President fell from 86% to 76%, with much of this being attributed to the political troubles encountered by the Democrats on voting rights and 'Build Back Better' legislations. The African-American community had played a crucial role in Mr. Biden's victory in the swing states and in the south; sitting at home and not voting in November on account of apathy will make a huge difference.

Hispanics are disappointed

But the bigger shocker to the Biden White House and the Democrats comes from the support of the Hispanics which has fallen to an agonising 26% (or less than the support from the whites) in a latest Quinnipiac Poll. The Hispanics had hoped for solid movement on the all-important issue of immigration that has turned out to be a huge disappointment. In fact this latest poll puts Mr. Biden's overall rating at 33%, the lowest among all surveys of recent months. One argument that is made is that the minority groups are turned off because of an overemphasis on the agenda of the progressives and left-leaning Democrats.

With six months to go for the midterms, traditional Democrats must be concerned at the direction of the White House and in the inability to craft a message or fine tune the messenger. Neither Mr. Biden nor the Democrats have the luxury of sitting back and arguing that nearly every President in the recent past was on the same level prior to their midterms; even Donald Trump was on much better footing at this time of his presidency while his predecessors, Barack Obama and George W. Bush, were way ahead in the approval-disapproval rating prior to the midterms.

'All politics is local'

There is no doubt that Mr. Biden is a decent person, but hanging everything on the coattails of Russian President Vladimir Putin is not going to work. Inflation has been running high for the last several months and gas prices have been hitting the roof long before Mr. Putin's tanks rolled into Ukraine. Undoubtedly, there have been gains in the economy and the job market but few in the party or the administration have been able to project this in the midst of all the noise that has been generated. Foreign policy barely makes a dent in American elections for as the former Speaker of the House of Representatives said, "All Politics is Local". And having been in the corridors of politics for close to four decades in Washington DC, Mr. Biden should know better.

Sridhar Krishnaswami was a former senior journalist in Washington covering North America and the United Nations

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Kalimedu accident

Of late, in most temples, and on the concluding day of festivals, after sunset, street processions with a chariot in tow as the main attraction have become a 'must' event. Such chariots are also drawn by improvised motor vehicles. An unacceptable height of the chariot with elaborate lighting fixtures is common. In the Thanjavur tragedy, a feeble argument that the height of the road has gone up is unimpressive. It is fine if lessons are gleaned but who is going to compensate the victims' families?

V. LAKSHMANAN,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

■ The chariot fire indicates the conspicuous absence of meticulous planning on the part of the temple authorities. Evidently the requisite safeguards were not followed. In an age of information and knowledge, it is baffling how the youth organising the event had overlooked the possible risks involved due to the presence of high-tension power lines. Amidst the practice of religious rituals, *viz.*, chariot processions, firing of crackers on temple precincts. etc., the scrupulous adherence to safety norms is a must.

G. RAMASUBRAMANYAM,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

■ Many areas in the country have low-hanging overhead power lines posing a threat to life and limb. The authorities would do well to insulate them.

N.J. RAVI CHANDER,
Bengaluru

■ Proper planning must be ensured in any festival. Safety drills must be made clear to all participants in such events. There should also be provision made for medical teams at the venue.

A.J. RANGARAJAN,
Chennai

Fuel duty cut

The Prime Minister's suggestion to some State governments to reduce VAT on fuel prices is surprising. In the last eight years the NDA government did not pass on the benefits of low crude prices to the common man. Even when crude prices hit rock bottom, one had the Central government resorting to frequent revision of excise duty, in turn netting crores.

It is certainly not fair to blame the States which are already reeling under funds constraints and dues owed to them by the Centre.

J. ANANTHA PADMANABHAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Musk and platform

At a time when self-styled hatemongers, staunch believers in extreme acts, arson, physical violence and hate speech are on the rise all over the world, the idea to make an influential social media platform a place for free speech, devoid of a policy to weed out hateful or harmful tweets, does not augur well, especially in the times we live in. Under the control of a key global entrepreneur and a self-proclaimed free speech absolutist who has made innovative business ventures, it remains to be seen whether Elon Musk can turn Twitter into a platform for absolute free speech or have it end up as a bad business strategy.

PRABHU RAJ R.,
Bengaluru

A stalemate

The Governor of a State, in the constitutional scheme of things, has to respect the decision of the State Cabinet and State legislature. There should be minimal interference so as to ensure the smooth functioning of the State government.

On the contrary, the Tamil Nadu Governor is policing the State and not its constitutional governance. In the case of NEET, he has not sent it for presidential assent despite the State Legislature passing the Bill again. In the Perarivalan case, he has passed the buck to the President even when there is no provision enabling such an action. The Governor is acting more as a representative of the Centre . Therefore, for smooth functioning it would be apt to replace him with a person who can act in a spirit of co-operative federalism.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
Chennai

Are freebies affecting the economic growth of India?

PARLEY

There are subsidies that are productive and then there are those that are wasteful

In an address delivered at the Delhi School of Economics last week, N.K. Singh, the chairperson of the 15th Finance Commission, warned about how the race to provide freebies to voters could be a "quick path to fiscal disaster." He also noted that freebies could be harmful for the long-term economic growth of the country and emphasised the need to distinguish between productive and unproductive forms of welfare spending. In a conversation moderated by **Prashanth Perumal**, Renu Kohli and Himanshu examine whether there is a case for doing away with freebie culture. Edited excerpts:

Renu Kohli
is an independent economist who has worked at the International Monetary Fund and the Reserve Bank of India

Himanshu
is Associate Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Is there a trend of deterioration in the financial situation of States? Are freebies the reason for it?

Renu Kohli: When the argument is framed as freebies versus fiscal stability, a binary answer is often not possible. So let me just clarify that there are different kinds of freebies. Some of them are extremely justifiable, some of them are not. As far as fiscal stability and financial deterioration is concerned, if we see the welfare spending of the States, and if it is sustainable and affordable, then that is fine as it is the prerogative of the political executive. Having said that, we must understand what exactly we mean by fiscal stability.

Broadly speaking, in common parlance, fiscal stability is a situation in which the government is able to deploy its fiscal policy towards long-term economic objectives, which are high employment and growth rates. That leads us to measures of fiscal stability. If you see the study of the State finances conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, you find that from 2005 onwards, in aggregate, States have adhered to the limit in terms of their gross fiscal deficit, which is the gap between the total revenue of the State and the total expenditure.

The mandate is under the ceiling of the fiscal responsibility legislation, which allows them to keep the gross fiscal deficit within an aggregate limit of 3% of GDP. The only years – apart from the pandemic years – when these limits were breached were 2009-10, 2015-16 and 2016-17. 2009-10 was a crisis year and 2015-16 and 2016-17 were years of power sector reforms in which power sector debt was taken over by the state governments. Secondly, what is the trajectory of the outstanding debt?

Outstanding debt reduction has actually progressed quite well in the case of the States. From a high of 31% of GDP, it came down by almost 10 percentage points to about 22% of GDP by 2014-15. After that, it has inched up about five percentage points by FY 2020. If we compare this with the Central government's track record, the Central government has never been able to adhere to fiscal deficit limits. Secondly, when it comes to debt reduction, the Central government's debt-to-GDP limit is supposed to be 40%, but it has now crossed 90% of GDP. So, the problem of fiscal stability is more pressing at the level of the Centre.

Himanshu: We need to look at the definition of freebies itself. The term "freebies" gives you an impression of something that is a dole or a gift given to the population. But then freebies can be of different varieties. Certain kinds of expenditure that are done under populist pressures or with elections in mind may be questionable. But given that in the last 30 years there has been rising inequality and also some level of distress in the last decade, some kind of relief to the population in the form of subsidies may not be unjustified. It may actually be necessary for the economy to continue on its growth path.

On the fiscal front, given that after 2017, when we have the goods and services tax (GST) which is more or less taking away the power of the States to generate revenues and given that responsibility for the majority of the welfare expenditure lies in the domain of the States, the hands of the States are squeezed.

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So, fiscal stability is not just about expenditure but also about revenues. And mind you, the Centre also engages in giving out freebies not just to the poor people but also to a large number of corporations.

N.K. Singh claims that poverty reduction has accelerated under the Modi government. How much of this is due to growth versus the welfare measures taken by the Centre?

H: We don't have official poverty estimates after 2011-12. The only estimates that we have are from a number of independent studies by private researchers. And I completely disagree with N.K. Singh's claim that the rate of poverty reduction has doubled under the Modi government. None of the studies, including the IMF study, the World Bank study, or consumption surveys, confirm that. In fact, there is at least one study that concludes that the rate of poverty reduction has slowed down under the Modi government.

There is also a consensus that the welfare measures such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the public distribution system, have contributed to poverty reduction. The strengthening of these programmes has definitely contributed to poverty reduction. This does not mean that growth does not have a role to play in reducing poverty. If the growth during the Modi years was as good as it was before that, then probably the rate of poverty reduction may have been higher. So, I don't think this is a question of welfare versus growth. I'm a little hesitant to call welfare measures as freebies because they may be essential not just for poverty reduction but also for growth. Remember, we are in a slowdown simply because demand in the economy overall has collapsed. And I think welfare spending has been able to at least prevent consumption demand from falling any further.

> **Welfare spending has been able to at least prevent consumption demand from falling any further**
> HIMANSHU

RK: The very idea of estimating poverty on the basis of private final consumption on the basis of national accounts was rejected long ago. So, estimating poverty on this basis is simply unacceptable. There has also been no consumption expenditure survey.

We have to question estimates of poverty coming from both the World Bank and the IMF. This is for two reasons. One is that at a time when the government is claiming that formalisation has increased, there's no basis to believe that income distribution has not worsened as an outcome of formalisation. Secondly, at a time when free food is being given, where is the proof that the underlying income of the poor has remained intact in the absence of any consumer expenditure survey? There's no way that this can be established. Also, the fact that the latest survey was junked and has never been published creates the suspicion that poverty may have risen.

What proportion of spending by States is productive rather than aimed simply at gaining votes in elections?

H: Well, in a democracy where political parties try and get votes from every section of the population, there is obviously a tendency for State governments to try and provide some kind of relief to voters. I am certainly in favour of expanding, for example, the MGNREGA type of spending and subsidy in the form of food ration schemes. These go a long way in increasing the productive capacity of the population. So, they're not just doles. They build a healthier and a stronger workforce, which is a necessary part of any growth strategy. That is similar to a State spending on education or health.

One can call these as an investment for the long-term, for improving the productive capacity of the population.

But yes, there are obviously cases where State governments have gone astray and have gone into providing all sorts of freebies or gifts. But when it comes to simply giving away loan waivers, I am not in favour of these because they have undesired consequences such as destroying the whole credit culture and it blurs the very basic question as to why is it that a large majority of the farming community is getting into a debt trap repeatedly.

We need to be talking about some of these issues in the larger context of whether they actually contribute to growth. Do they actually contribute to poverty reduction, or are these simply being done to get short-term benefits at the cost of long-term damage? We know about free electricity that is being given in various States to the rural communities which has sometimes led to disastrous consequences in terms of declining water table, wastage of electricity and various other things. There are nuances to the issue, and one will have to get into those nuances to take a final call on whether a certain welfare spending is necessary or not.

Lastly, some people have been questioning subsidies going into education, such as for laptops and other things. Some of them have now become necessities for increasing productivity, knowledge, skills, and various other things. So, we need a more nuanced understanding of the issue.

RK: There is absolutely no justification for promising 200, 300 or whatever number of units of power to middle class or urban populations who are by and large regular income earners. I have a slightly different perspective on loan waivers in the light of agriculture being a very costly and extremely risky venture. It's one of the riskiest activities to undertake compared to, say, manufacturing or any of the services segment. And there are always ways to restructure bank loans to medium and small enterprises in the event of a downturn in the business cycle or any kind of extraordinary shock.

Now, we can talk about loan waivers in the light of weather and other risks and also the fact that crop insurance has by and large always failed to offset shocks in agriculture. Also, we are in a position where direct benefits transfer can be used to deliver loan waivers directly to distressed farmers and the cost of the waiver is immediately taken on the government's budget and financial intermediaries are not involved. Secondly, the tendency towards unproductive spending is not more pronounced at the level of the States as compared to the Centre.

If we look at social sector expenditure, there is a rising trend at the level of the States, but then the rising trend at the level of the Centre is extraordinarily high. And if you look at the core sector schemes, then the revenue spending component is as high as 65-68%.

So almost two-third of the expenditure is revenue expenditure. The issue of unproductive and productive spending should be looked at in this light and in the light of mounting interest payments.

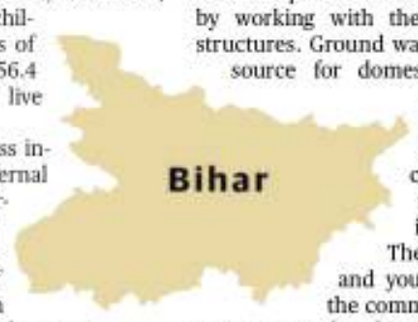
STATE OF PLAY

Bihar budgets for water

Women are at the forefront of the government's drinking water initiative in the State

NAFISA BINTE SHAFIQUE

As per Sample Registration Survey (SRS), 2019 estimates, the infant mortality rate in Bihar has been recorded as 29 deaths per 1,000 live births, which is a reduction by three points from the 2018 estimates and is one point better than the national average of 30 deaths per 1,000 live births. Similarly, as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) estimates, mortality rate for children under 5 years of age stands at 56.4 deaths per 1,000 live births.



While this success indicates better maternal and child health services in the State, it also indicates better availability of other public health services such as safe water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Bihar has been able to provide tap water to 1.56 crore households out of the targeted 1.72 crore rural households. This is a remarkable achievement in the last five years considering the low coverage of 3% with which the State started. Bihar has provided the highest number of tap connections in the last few years among all the States in India.

This momentous achievement was possible due to strong political leadership that resulted in the implementation of the State government scheme, Mukhya Mantri Peyjal Nishchaya Yojana, which was launched as a part of the seven resolves of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to ensure good governance.

Structural changes in programme implementation were initiated to divide the responsibility of water provisioning between the Public Health Engineering Department and Panchayati Raj Department. The State government has also promised a better service benchmark of 70 litre per person per day by tapping the available ground water.

Sustainable source of water is an important determinant in the success of safe water schemes. To ensure source sustainability, the State Government of Bihar has launched the jal-jeevan-hariyali mission for ground water recharge and efficient use of it through changing crop pattern, irrigation methods, large scale plantation and revival of traditional water harvesting and recharge structures.

This year's theme for World Water Day is "Groundwater: making the invisible visible". Making ground water visible requires a decentralised effort by working with the community structures. Ground water, the main source for domestic use and agriculture in the State, requires concerted efforts in making it visible. The adolescents and youth groups in the community can be empowered and involved in educating community members on groundwater availability, its optimum usage and in conducting climate centric water budgeting.

In the last decade, the State Government of Bihar has been experimenting with remarkable success in implementing various initiatives that provide women a chance to come forward to have a democratic dialogue in water provisioning. The government has made provisions to include at least three women members in the ward level committees that are formed to manage ward-level piped water schemes across 1,14,691 rural wards in the State.

Today, there are more than three lakh women who are a part of these committees.

Further, more than 25,000 women are also working as pump operators especially in areas where implementation is done by ward implementation and management committee (WIMCs). These women are leading from the front the great turnaround story of drinking water in the State.

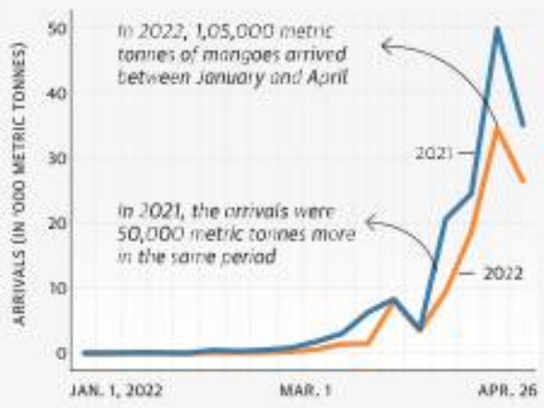
Nafisa Binte Shafique is CFO, UNICEF Office for Bihar

DATA POINT

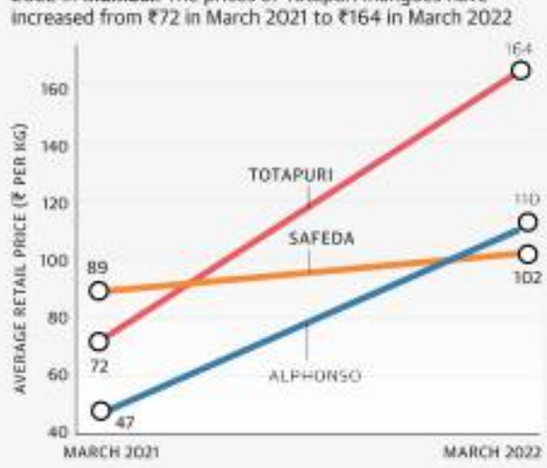
Erratic climate denies fruits of labour

The data point published on April 27, 2022 (*Rain and shine*) depicted that excess unseasonal rainfall and extreme heat was recorded in the last six months across India. In the post-monsoon period last year, rainfall was recorded over 60% the normal levels across many regions. Following this, in the months of March and April this year, a 5°C increase in temperature from the usual levels was recorded especially in the northern parts. Unseasonal rainfall last year coincided with the mango flowering season in the south. Whereas, extreme heat this year aligned with the mango flowering season in the north. This resulted in the mango flowers falling off the trees/wilting before it could mature. Consequently mango arrivals in markets dropped, pushing up the retail prices. A similar pattern was observed in the case of lemons. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan** and **Rebecca Rose Varghese**

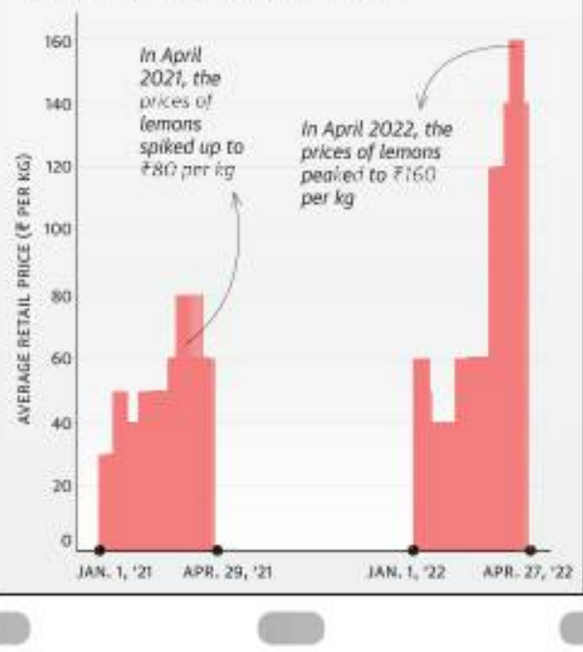
ARRIVALS DIP | The chart shows the mango arrivals for 2021 and 2022 between the months of January and April. The arrivals declined by over 30% in 2022



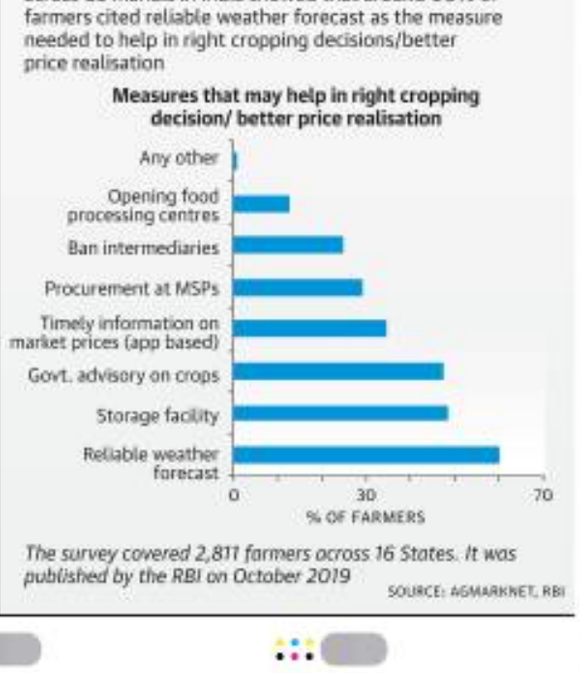
COSTLY MANGOES | The chart shows the average prices of select mango varieties in March 2021 and March 2022 in **Mumbai**. The prices of Totapuri mangoes have increased from ₹72 in March 2021 to ₹164 in March 2022



COSTLY LEMONS | The chart shows the prices of lemons in 2021 and 2022 between the months of January and April in **Mumbai**. The average retail prices of lemons touched ₹160 per kg mark on April 21, 2022



RELYING ON WEATHER | A survey conducted across 85 mandis in India showed that around 60% of farmers cited reliable weather forecast as the measure needed to help in right cropping decisions/better price realisation



The survey covered 2,811 farmers across 16 States. It was published by the RBI on October 2019

SOURCE: AGMARKNET, RBI

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 29, 1972

Pin-point return of astronauts

The Apollo-16 astronauts splashed down safely in the Pacific yesterday ending an 11-day mission to the lunar highlands full of spectacular successes, disappointing failures and intriguing new clues to the puzzle of the moon's creation. America's next-to-last scheduled manned flight to the moon, a $445 million venture ended at 19-45 GMT (01-15 IST) Friday, when the command ship Casper landed in gentle, blue-green sea about 2,400 km. south of Honolulu. After burning through the earth's atmosphere at 39.699 km. per hour, astronauts John W. Young, Charles M. Duke Jr. and Thomas Mattingly splashed down precisely on schedule and only a mile from the waiting aircraft carrier Ticonderoga after a voyage of 13,91,000 miles (22,37,255 km). They reported their physical condition was "outstanding". A few minutes before, they felt a reassuring tug of gravity as three huge, orange-and-white striped parachutes blossomed under the near-cloudless skies and lowered Casper to the ocean. The parachutes were specially strengthened to avoid a repeat of Apollo 15's hard landing last August when one of the three parachutes failed to open completely. The cone-shaped command ship nevertheless appeared before a nationwide television audience to have hit the water hard.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 29, 1922

Some suggestions

Mr. Kosakoppa Krishna Rao C. writes: All lovers of Mysore, were eagerly expecting a change, as the administration was getting out of accustomed and well established groove and power fell into the hands of those who began to exercise the same without the least regard to the feelings and sentiments of many who have grown grey in the services of their motherland. The climax reached its height and became unbearable when the administration sought to openly insult the press and the police men of Mysore. Mr. Venkatakrishniah may have offended the powers that be, but old and venerable as he is, considering his past and meritorious services to the cause of the State, which services earned for him the approbation of his sovereign who bestowed on him even a life pension from his private purse, was sought to be humiliated. A rigorous policy of repression of the press was initiated by the Government and it now learnt that even the Executive Council was not unanimous in the ushering of the policy of repression.

FROM PAGE ONE

Keen on lifting AFSPA from northeast: Modi

Laying the foundation stone for 2,950 Amrit Sarovar [water conservation] projects across Assam and three regional colleges worth a total of ₹1,650 crore, Mr. Modi claimed difficulties had been reducing and fast-tracked development taking place in the northeast since 2014.

He noted the coincidence of the *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* and the 400th anniversary of Lachit Borphukan, the 17th century Ahom general who stopped the Mughals from capturing Assam. "The life of this great son of Assam inspires patriotism and strength across India," he said.

Cancer hospitals

Later at Dibrugarh, about 300 km east of Diphu, the Prime Minister inaugurated seven advanced cancer hospitals under the Assam Cancer Care Foundation, a collaboration between the Assam government and Tata Trusts. There will be 17 such centres across Assam, strategically located to serve patients from the other north-eastern States and neighbouring countries such as Bhutan.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation of seven other such hospitals. The seven hospitals inaugurated are at Dibrugarh, Barpeta, Tezpur, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Kokrajhar and Darrang.

'High incidence'

"Given the high incidence of cancer in the northeast and the cost involved in treatment, we want Assam to become the hub of cancer care in South Asia," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

A Tata Trust spokesperson said up to 50,000 cancer patients can get inexpensive treatment when all the 17 hospitals are in operation. The network of such hospitals under the distributed cancer control model has a four-level step down system offering early detection and diagnosis besides treatment.

According to a government study in 2021, the northeast is the "cancer capital" of India with Arunachal Pradesh's Papum Pare district and Mizoram's Aizawl district recording the highest incidence of new cases among females and males respectively.

5G service roll-out likely in August-September

In its recommendations, the TRAI has suggested cutting prices of airwaves across various bands, including 5G spectrum, by 35-40% from its earlier proposed base price.

However, the Cellular Operators Association of India, whose members include the three private telcos – Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea, has expressed disappointment, given the industry's demand for a 90% reduction in the prices.

In all, more than 1,00,000 MHz of airwaves have been recommended to be put up for auction. The total spectrum on offer at reserve price is valued at around ₹5 lakh crore for 20 years.

Move to disallow prayers at Jamia Masjid decried

"The move is unacceptable and reprehensible. It will bar thousands of people from offering the congregational prayers inside the historic mosque. It amounts to direct interference in the people's religious matters," PAGD spokesman and CPI (M) leader M.Y. Tarigami said.

The PAGD, which has the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as its members, has also urged the administration "to reconsider its decision".

Belied claims

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah said the government's decision belied the claims of normalcy. "If the government claims the situation is normal, then why the prayers have been disallowed at the historic Jamia Masjid?" Mr. Abdullah said.

He said the government, "if not by its words but by its action, is proving that the situation is too far from normal. Linking tourist arrivals with normalcy won't do".

Incarcerated Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, also Valley's chief priest, said the government's move "is outrageous and against the fundamental human right to religious practice".

"The central Jamia mosque would see people in lakhs offering prayers on these occasions. Such orders are against Muslims," the Mirwaiz said.

The Hurriyat has asked the authorities "to revoke the ban on prayers and allow Muslims across the Valley to access the central Jamia Masjid on these very important and holy days of Ramadan".

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has alleged that "not only are scores of youth being picked up on a daily basis but even mainstream representatives like sarpanches are being held captive by the administration. "Hope they are allowed to at least celebrate Id with their families," she said.

India's position on sanctions hasn't changed a bit, says MEA

Ahead of PM's European tour, Ministry asserts India's independent policy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's position on sanctions against Russia has not changed "one bit", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

The Ministry made the assertion while speaking about the likelihood of renewed requests from European countries to join the sanctions during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's European tour next week.

In his first foreign visit in 2022, the Prime Minister will visit Germany and Denmark for the Nordic Summit and France from May 2 to 4. He will meet with leaders of at least seven European countries, the MEA said, and while "topical issues" like Ukraine would be discussed, the government expects to see more substantive bilateral subjects on the agenda for talks.

"We have a new Chancellor [Olaf Scholz] there... this will be the first interaction with him," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a briefing on Thursday, adding that the PM's attendance at the second Nordic Summit would give relations with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden a more "structured format", and the visit to France will make Mr. Modi one of the earliest foreign visitors after President Emanuel Macron's re-election there.

> While India is in touch with both Russia and Ukraine during this period and is ready to assist in any way required, the government hasn't received any particular requests from either side to carry a message or anything like that
>
> ARINDAM BAGCHI MEA spokesperson

Ahead of the PM's meetings in Berlin, the German Ambassador said that strengthening ties between democracies is important in times of "turmoil and crisis", without referring directly to the Ukraine conflict.

The MEA's comments come after a number of European countries have made it clear they intend to keep pushing for India to shift its position on the conflict and on its refusal to join the U.S. and EU's sanctions. In separate interviews to *The Hindu* this week, Foreign Ministers of Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Poland had all expressed the hope that New Delhi would reconsider its refusal to criticise Russia, and even to use PM Modi's relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin to convince him to stop the war. In a sharp response on Wednesday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said India cannot be a "pale imitation" of others nor does it need the "approval" of others.

To a question from *The Hindu* about whether India plans to play a mediatory role in the conflict during the briefing on Thursday, the spokesperson said that while India is in touch with Russia and Ukraine and is ready to assist in any way required, the government hasn't received "any particular requests from either side to carry a message or anything like that". Mr. Bagchi also said he would be "surprised" if Mr. Modi were to stop in Moscow on his way back from the three-nation tour.

Meritorious candidates can get general seats: SC

'They need not get OBC quota benefit'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that Other Backward Class (OBC) candidates are required to be adjusted against the general category when they prove more meritorious than the last of the general category candidates appointed.

The court said that in such circumstances, the appointments of OBC candidates could not have been considered against the seats available in the reserved category.

The top court said that consequently, after considering their appointments in the general category, the seats meant for the reserved category were required to be filled in from and amongst the other remaining reserved category candidates on merit.

A Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and B.V. Nagarathna relied on various verdicts of the top court including *Indra Sawhney vs Union of India of 1992*, popularly called Mandal Commission verdict, while dealing with a case of two OBC category candidates for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. jobs.

Relying on the verdicts, the top court accepted the arguments of senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for a quota candidate, that the reserved category candidates having obtained more marks than the last candidate in general category candidates will have to be adjusted against the general category quota and they were required to be considered in the general category pool, thereby the remaining candidates belonging to the reserved category were required to be appointed against the quota meant for reserved category.

The court said by insertion of two OBC candidates into the general category, two general category candidates already appointed shall have to be expelled and/or shall have to be removed, and it may unsettle the entire selection process.

India, Bangladesh discuss high-level visits

The two sides highlight trade, commerce and connectivity, affected by different restrictions

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday held talks with his counterpart, A.K. Abdul Momen, in Bangladesh and called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Dhaka is the first stop in a two-nation neighbourhood visit undertaken by Dr. Jaishankar, along with top Indian diplomats including the Foreign Secretary-designate Vinay Mohan Kwatra. Both the countries have been affected by high energy prices following the crisis in Ukraine and have voted cautiously on various UN platforms vis-a-vis the same.

"[Held] Positive discussions with Bangladesh FM Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen. Agreed that our close neighbourly partnership is progressing steadily. Our shared endeavour would be to take it forward... Looking forward to hosting him for the Joint Consultative Commission," Dr. Jaishankar said after a round of conversations with his counterpart Dr. Momen.

Neighbourhood visit: S. Jaishankar with Sheikh Hasina during a meeting in Dhaka, on Thursday. • PTI

Dr. Jaishankar conveyed a personal message from PM Modi to Sheikh Hasina. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Bangladesh in a statement said that during the talks, the two sides had "emphasised on promoting trade, commerce and connectivity especially in the light of supply chain disruption resulting from COVID-19 restrictions and recent conflict in Ukraine".

Lifting sanctions

The visit hit media headlines in Dhaka after Mr. Momen informed that he had urged the Indian side to help in lifting the U.S. sanctions imposed on the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), which in the past was accused of extra-judicial killings.

The Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi declined to get into the details of the alleged exchange involving the sanctions on the RAB with the U.S., saying India may not go public about this if it involved a third country [the United States].

The visit comes months after President Ram Nath Kovind was hosted in Dhaka during the Vijay Divas celebrations last December. It is understood that Ms. Hasina is likely to visit India before the end of summer. Mr. Jaishankar is scheduled to leave for Bhutan on Friday.

HCs get 8 weeks to tune up criminal trial system

SC tells them to implement Draft Rules

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave High Courts two months to repair inadequacies and inefficiencies in the criminal trial system of their respective States.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao was informed by its *amici curiae*, senior advocates R. Basant and Sidharth Luthra and advocate K. Parameshwar, that while most of the High Courts have responded positively to the Draft Rules of Criminal Practice, 2020 – a set of recommendations prepared by the three lawyers to streamline criminal trial system and make it uniform across the country – there is no information about implementation from seven High Courts. These include Madras, Gujarat, Bombay and Rajasthan.

On Thursday, the apex court extended the time by eight weeks for these States and High Courts to notify and implement the suggestions.

The Supreme Court had in April 2020 given States and their High Courts six months to incorporate the recommendations in their police manuals and criminal trial processes.

The Draft Rules had gone into the intricacies of investigation and trial, including proposals to employ separate teams of lawyers to help the police during the probe and for the trial; details to be covered while drafting spot *panchnamas* and even corrections in body sketches.

'Russia-Ukraine conflict shows need of self-reliance'

Navy at the forefront of indigenisation, says Rajnath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Navy has maintained a high tempo of operations and established a credible and responsive presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) through "mission-based deployments", thereby reaffirming its position as the "preferred security partner" in the IOR, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

Rajnath Singh with senior Navy officials during the Naval Commanders' Conference in New Delhi on Thursday. • PTI

On the prevailing security environment in the world, he said the ongoing Russia and Ukraine conflict had once again highlighted that being self-reliant without dependence was a "vital necessity."

Mr. Singh referred to the fact that of the 41 ships and submarines which were on order, 39 were being built in Indian shipyards. While the Navy had been at the forefront of indigenisation, it was important to leverage the momentum gained thus far, he noted.

"The delivery of the first indigenous aircraft carrier *Vikrant* would be another milestone event. I am aware that the ship has successfully completed three sea trials. All-out efforts need to be made so that the ship is delivered and commissioned in the 75th year of Independence," he said at the Naval Commanders Conference.

IN BRIEF

Court reserves order on Mevani's fresh bail plea

GUWAHATI

A court at Barpeta in western Assam on Thursday reserved order on a fresh bail petition moved by Independent MLA from Gujarat Jignesh Mevani, who was arrested on April 25 for allegedly assaulting a policewoman. The court of the chief judicial magistrate in Barpeta had on April 26 sent Mr. Mevani to five-day police custody. He was first arrested on April 20 in another case, and was granted bail on April 25.

NIA to take over Sunjwan terror attack case

NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is taking over the probe into the terror attack on a CISF vehicle ferrying 15 security personnel at Sunjwan in Jammu and Kashmi, following a directive from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The State police earlier arrested two local people in connection with the attack, which was "carried out by two Pashto-speaking *fidayeen* of the Jaish-e-Muhammad", two days ahead of the PM's visit to Jammu.

Row in Bengal over MLA's swearing-in

KOLKATA

Twelve days after being elected to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Trinamool Congress MLA Babul Supriyo awaits being sworn in as an MLA, the reason being the differences between the government and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar. The Governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, in a tweet on Thursday said the Assembly Secretariat and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Partha Chatterjee should provide him with details regarding various House proceedings.

Two Al-Badr militants killed in Pulwama

The militants were encircled at Mitrigam in Pulwama during a joint cordon-and-search operation launched by the Army and the police around 3 p.m. on Wednesday. "Around 4.10 p.m., the terrorists opened heavy fire. A soldier suffered gunshot wounds and was evacuated to the 92 Base Hospital," an Army spokesman said.

The militants were hiding in a cluster of eight houses. Civilians were evacuated from the area. "The site was kept under constant surveillance using quad-copters to locate the terrorists," the Army said. The firefight between the terrorists and security forces continued till about 9.50 p.m., when it was found that one terrorist had been neutralised and the other grievously injured. "Around 2.15 a.m., it was found that the second terrorist had also been neutralised," the Army said.

The militants were identified as local terrorists Aijaz Hafiz and Shahid Ayub. Two AK-47 rifles were recovered.

In a separate incident, an "explosive material" was found alongside a highway in Jammu's Sidhra area, officials said. "The material was destroyed by the bomb disposal squad of the police," Additional Director General of Police, Jammu, Mukesh Singh said.

BJP turns focus to M.P., Chhattisgarh

Nadda discusses organisational issues with senior leaders from the two States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Thursday held meetings with the party's senior leaders from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to discuss organisational issues and party programmes dealing with outreach to Scheduled Caste and tribal communities in the two States, where Assembly elections are due in 2023.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and State in-charge Muralidhar Rao, State party chief Vishnu Dutt Sharma and Minister Narottam Mishra, BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh and State general secretary (organisation) Hitanand Sharma participated.

Amid speculation about a reshuffle in the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet and changes in the party's organisation, a leader who attended the meeting said these issues were discussed.

"Party leaders were also told that the frequent alluding to a change in leadership in M.P. was not helping matters and that such things should not be discussed in public," said a senior leader present at the meeting.

After losing to the Congress in 2018, the party returned to power in 2020 after winning over a chunk of its MLAs, who owed allegiance to Jyotiraditya Scindia, now a Union Minister. Coordination among the party organisation, old-timers and Ministers in the Chouhan government owing allegiance to Mr. Scindia was also flagged at the meeting, a senior leader revealed.

"Home Minister Amit Shah's recent public meeting in Madhya Pradesh in the tribal belt is a pointer to the fact that the party is looking at expanding its base in that community. A woman tribal leader may be made a Minister soon," said the source.

In the meeting on Chhattisgarh, former Chief Minister Raman Singh and State party president Vishnudeo Sai were among those who attended.

While party leaders hinted that Mr. Singh may not be projected as a CM face in 2023, the problem of an alternative leader remains, and the organisation is also not at its best. The hunt for a face either from the OBC community like Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel or a tribal face is very much on.

Mr. Nadda had also chaired a meeting with leaders from Rajasthan, which is scheduled to go to the polls with M.P. and Chhattisgarh.

Mayawati slams SP chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Thursday said that she did not dream of becoming the President of India but continued to aspire to be elected as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the Prime Minister of the country in the future.

Her statement came in response to a jibe by SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who had alleged an understanding between the BSP and the BJP for the 2022 Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh.

APPEAL

Name of Patient: **Master Reyan**, 2 years.
Hospital Name: Christian Medical College.
Diagnosis: Acute Myeloid Leukemia (Infantile Leukemia) – M4/M5 with CNS-3. This is a type of blood cancer. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately **Rs. 14,00,000/-**.
We request kind hearted Philanthropists to save him. Kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D/M.O. favouring **Save Poor Lives** and on the back of Cheque write A/c Reyan. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaipuram Branch and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855. You Can Donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI ID: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.
Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (Admn Division), Flat No. A1, Cesbros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. **Ph: 044-42044165**, Mobile: **9884607377**, E-mail: **savepoorlives@gmail.com** Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Some States indulging in fuel tax 'hypocrisy': Puri

They like to criticise, not help people, says Oil Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Puri launched a diatribe against the "hypocrisy" of States ruled by BJP rivals on Thursday, and said petrol would be cheaper if some of them cut taxes on the fuel instead of imported liquor.

The Minister's comments in a series of social media posts came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi blamed those States for not cutting fuel taxes to benefit consumers.

Mr. Puri listed out several States' taxation structure for petroleum products, and argued that the taxes levied by the States ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were the lowest. "BJP-ruled States have a VAT [value added tax] on petrol and diesel in the range of ₹14.50 to ₹17.50 per litre, while taxes levied by States ruled by other parties are in the range of ₹26 to ₹32 per litre. The difference is clear. Their intent is only to protest and criticise, not extend relief to the people," he said.

"Ever wondered why air ticket prices haven't come down? Aviation turbine fuel constitutes about 40% of the cost of airline operations. But West Bengal, Maharashtra & Delhi impose massive 25%+ VAT on ATF while BJP-ruled States U.P. & Nagaland; & UT of J&K charge just 1%," Mr. Puri noted, adding that the Prime Minister was ensuring affordable air travel to common citizens, but these States were creating "impediments".

"They manufacture protests against 'oil prices' but fleece the people to fill their coffers... The truth hurts, but facts speak for themselves," the Minister said.

Maharashtra, he said, has collected ₹79,412 crore as fuel taxes since 2018 and is expected to collect ₹33,000 crore this year.

"Petrol will be cheaper if Opposition-ruled states cut taxes on fuel instead of imported liquor! Maharashtra govt imposes ₹32.15/ltr on petrol & Congress-ruled Rajasthan ₹29.10 but BJP-ruled Uttarakhand levies only ₹14.51 & Uttar Pradesh ₹16.50 Protests cannot challenge facts!" he tweeted.

With regard to Telangana, Mr. Puri said it imposed one of the highest VAT on petrol and diesel, at 35.2% and 27%, respectively.

"State govt has collected ₹56,020 cr as VAT from 2014 to 2021. Projected to mop up ₹13,315 cr in 2021-22. Adds up to a huge ₹69,334 cr. Where has it gone?" the Minister asked.

INTERVIEW | BHUPESH BAGHEL

'We didn't go to Prashant Kishor, he came to us'

He decided to knock at our doors because the country needs the Congress today, says Chhattisgarh CM

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** *will undertake an extensive tour of the State, with interactions at the village level. He shares his thoughts on governance, the emphasis on Lord Ram-centric tourism and the recent Prashant Kishor fiasco in the Congress. Excerpts.*

From May 4, you are going to tour all 90 Assembly segments in the State. As per the published programme, you will be visiting three villages in each constituency. The next Assembly elections are some 17 months away, but is this the beginning of the Congress campaign?

■ I wouldn't see it as a political campaign, elections are still far away. During the COVID-19 pandemic, one was not able to travel around so much. As a Chief Minister, it is important for me to get feedback from the public on our government's welfare policies, assess its implementation and figure out the gaps, if any.

Also when the Chief Minister of the State hits the road, the administration and the governance straightens up and becomes vigilant. This is my effort to meet all stakeholders, social workers, beneficiaries and district-level administrators.

You recently announced developing the Ram Van Gaman Path – the path that Lord Ram, as per mythological accounts, took after he was cast out from Ayodhya. You are being accused of peddling soft Hindutva. Your comments?

■ How is this soft Hindutva? This is part of Chhattisgarh's culture.

We are the only State in the country to have a temple dedicated to Lord Ram's mother Kaushalaya, some 25 km from Raipur, in Chand Khuri. Chhattisgarh is believed to be her parents' home.

The effort in developing this circuit is to inform and acquaint the country and the world about the rich history and traditions of our State.

But, with this, aren't you trying to compete with the BJP's Ram Mandir narrative?

■ Why do we need to compete with that? Hinduism is not any one party's monopoly. Why should Chhattisgarh be only known for its jungles, mines and minerals? There is so much more to us and we are only putting that out on India's map.

In recent weeks, the Congress has been in the news in connection with Prashant Kishor. Isn't Mr. Kishor's decision not to join the party after days of a very public parley an insult to the Congress?

■ He came to us, we didn't go to him. Mr. Kishor wanted to show us a presentation, which we all saw. And I believe he decided to knock at our doors because the country needs the Congress today. We heard out his suggestions. It is up to him to decide to join the party or not and it is up to the party to consider his recommendations or not.

The speculation about a change of guard in Chhattisgarh is refusing to die. The Chief Minister's Chair was to be rotated between you and T.S. Singh Deo midway through the tenure. Your comments?

What speculation? This question is irrelevant. Let's say there was such a formula, then why has it not been implemented so far? I completed two-and-a-half years in the Chief Minister's chair almost a year ago.

(For full interview, log on to bit.ly/BhupeshBaghel)

Modi's federalism is coercive not cooperative, says Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi stated that the Narendra Modi government follows "coercive federalism" instead of cooperative federalism.

Mr. Gandhi tweeted, "High fuel prices – blame States. Coal shortage – blame States. Oxygen shortage – blame States. 68% of all fuel taxes are taken by the Centre. Yet, the PM abdicates responsibility. Modi's federalism is not cooperative. It's coercive." In a Facebook post, he said, "It is coercive federalism which is shamelessly selective in nature against Opposition-ruled States. India needs a PM who treats States as equal partners. Not as adversaries."

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram tweeted, "On the day the PM exhorted States to cut the VAT rate on petrol and diesel, the MoF [Ministry of Finance] announced that the Centre owes ₹78,704 crore to the States!"

Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Singhvi said the Centre had earned ₹27-29 lakh crore on fuel taxes and cess in the past eight years but the States had got very little.

Nath resigns as Opposition Leader in M.P. Assembly

He will remain chief of the Congress unit in the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Kamal Nath

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Thursday was replaced as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the State Assembly, as Congress chief Sonia Gandhi accepted his resignation from the position of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP).

Former Minister and seven-time lawmaker Govind Singh will be the new LoP.

"I visited the Bhopal residence of the newly appointed LoP of MP Assembly Shri Govind Singh. Congratulating him, I also expressed my hope that he will successfully discharge his duties and strengthen the party," Mr. Nath tweeted.

Mr. Nath, however, will continue as the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief and is expected to lead the party in the next Assembly election scheduled in the latter part of 2023.

Senior leaders of the the PCC recently held a meeting and took the unusual step of declaring on their own that the party will go to the polls under his leadership.

Mr. Nath is said to have resigned from the CLP leader's post to stick to the norm of "one person, one post".

Mr. Singh, the new CLP leader from Lahar constituency in Bhind district, is believed to be a confidant of former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh.

Dr. Singh told presspersons in Bhopal, "I have been raising people's issues in the Assembly and will continue to do so in future also as the CLP leader... I will question the BJP government over public issues."

Opposition parties flay Centre for LIC IPO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties criticised the Union government for offloading its stake in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in the form of an Initial Public Offering (IPO) that opens on May 4.

They called it a first step towards destruction of the public character of the LIC that holds two-thirds of the insurance market.

In a statement, Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] Polit Bureau expressed concern at the scaling down of the valuation of the LIC share which, it alleged, was done under pressure from the international investors out to make a quick buck.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "Very intriguing that while filing the prospectus in February for its mega IPO, LIC disinvestment was at 2.5 times the embedded value, but now the valuation of the IPO to open soon is just 1.1 times. Why is the Modi govt so desperate to sell and sell cheap?"

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008. Phone: 044-28191890, 28190259
Fax: 044-28190636 Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in / www.tnhealth.tn.gov.in
E-Mail: ospnd.tnmsc@tn.gov.in / admo.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation Limited, Chennai is proposed to fill-up direct recruitment for one post of **"Assistant Accounts Officer"** and one post of **"Accounts Officer"**. For eligibility criteria and detailed information, visit our website **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in / www.tnhealth.tn.gov.in** Interested eligible candidates may apply through online on or before **09.05.2022** in the prescribed form hosted in the above website.
DIPR/415/Display/2022 MANAGING DIRECTOR

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE
O/o the Chief Engineer(IT,CR&CAPs), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID:2022_KSEB_488246_1
Last date 16.05.2022 05.00pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref: PR /MC1 /E349/ E- Tender /2022

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. (ग्रामीण) वृत उदयपुर
क्रमांक :-वी.ए./निविदा/22-23/ 84 दिनांक- 20.04.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से राजस्थान सरकार के 'एए' 'ए' श्रेणी के संवेदकों एवं केन्द्रीय सरकार/राज्य सरकार व उनके अधिकृत संस्थानों में पंजीकृत संवेदकों जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के 'एए' 'ए' श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, उनसे निर्धारित निविदा प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण इन्टरनेट साईट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in ,www.diproline.org व http://sppp.raj.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

कुल निविदा के कार्य	2 कार्य
निविदा की लागत	रुपये 469.00 लाख
कुल धरोहर राशि	2 प्रतिशत रू. 938000/- 1/2 प्रतिशत रू. 234500/-
ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की दिनांक	21.04.2022 से 16.05.2022 सांय 6:00 बजे तक
ऑन लाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	17.05.2022 सायं 04:00 बजे

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जायेगी।
नोट- निविदा द्वारा धरोहर राशि/निविदा शुल्क/निविदा प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क शासन सचिव वित्त बजट विभाग राजस्थान जयपुर के परिपत्र क्रमांक प.6(5)वित्त/साविलेनि/2016 दिनांक 27.04.2020 अनुसार ई-ग्रास के चालान द्वारा जमा करना होगा एवं चालान खण्ड कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत करना होगा अथवा कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. राजस्थान जयपुर के परिपत्र क्रमांक मु.अ./वि.स./परिपत्र/2021-22/डी.-63 दिनांक 05.01.2022 के अनुसार जमा करानी होगी।
निविदा शर्ते 1. निविदा शर्ते किसी भी दिन कार्यालय दिवस में देखी जा सकती है।
NIB Code :- PWD2223A0206, UBN No - PWD2223WSOB00765, 766
(पी.आर. मीना) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. (ग्रामीण) वृत उदयपुर
DIPR/C/5885/22

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
4th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001
Phone 23353503, FAX: 23753923

Petition No. 50/TL/2022 Dated: 25.04.2022

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under sub-section (1) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by Powergrid Aligarh Sikar Transmission Limited, B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016 to establish Transmission System Strengthening Scheme for Evacuation of Power from Solar Energy Zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase II (Part D)", on Build, Own, Operate and Maintain (BOOM) basis (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") consisting of the following elements:

S. No.	Name of the Transmission Element	Scheduled COD in months from Effective date	Element(s) which are pre-required for declaring the commercial operation (COD) of the respective element
1.	Sikar-II - Aligarh 765 kV D/c line		
2.	2 no. of 765 kV line bays at Sikar-II for Sikar-II-Aligarh (GIS) 765 kV D/c line 765 kV line bays – 2* (Sikar-II S/s)		
3.	1x330 MVAr switchable line reactor for each circuit at each end of Sikar-II-Aligarh(GIS) 765 kV D/c line 330 MVAr, 765 kV reactor- 4 (2 reactors each at Sikar-II and Aligarh) Switching equipment for 765 kV reactor - 4 (2 switching equipment each at Sikar-II and Aligarh) 110 MVAR, 765 kV, 1 ph Reactor (spare unit) at Aligarh-1	18 months	Elements marked at Sr. No. 1 to Sr. No. 3 are required to be commissioned simultaneously as their utilization is dependent on Commissioning of each other.

Note:
i) *2 nos. of 765 kV GIS line bay modules (up to SF6 to air bushing outside GIS hall) are already available at Aligarh (GIS) sub-station. TSP shall utilize the same for termination of Sikar-II-Aligarh (GIS) 765 kV D/c line at Aligarh.
ii) Developer of Sikar-II S/s to provide space for 2 no. of 765 kV bays and space for 2 no. of switchable line reactors at Sikar-II sub-station.
iii) The spare unit of 765 kV, 1x110 MVAR reactor being provided at Sikar-II PS under 'Transmission system strengthening for evacuation of power from solar energy zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase II-Part C' shall be utilized as common spare for 6x110 MVAR Switchable Line Reactors to be provided at Sikar-II PS each under 'Transmission system strengthening for evacuation of power from solar energy zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase II-Part D' and 'Transmission system strengthening for evacuation of power from solar energy zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase II –Part E'.
iv) GA drawing indicating the available area at 765 kV Aligarh substation is attached. TSP shall assess the same suitably and may procure additional land, if required.

2. The applicant has been selected as the Transmission Service Provider with the lowest levelized transmission charges of `997.01 million per annum on the basis of the competitive bidding carried out by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Central Government under Section 63 of the Act.
3. The Central Transmission Utility has recommended for grant of transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
4. Based on material available on record, the Commission has, vide order dated 22.4.2022 in Petition No. 50/TL/2022, proposed to issue transmission licence to the applicant for establishing the transmission system as noted in para 1 above.
5. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for grant of inter-State transmission licence to Powergrid Aligarh Sikar Transmission Limited before the Commission can be accessed at the website www.powergrid.in or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
6. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by 9.5.2022 at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
7. The application shall be taken up for further hearing by the Commission in due course. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

E-mail:-acez1jpr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-प्रथम जयपुर
पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कैम्पस, जैकब रोड, जयपुर क्लब के सामने, जयपुर फोन नं. 0141-2223525
क्रमांक: अमुअ/जोन-प्रथम /निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2022-23/डी-96 दिनांक:13/4/2022
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या: 01/2022-23
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक अमुअ/जोन-प्रथम/निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2022-23/ डी-52 दिनांक 08.04.2022 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2022-23 बजट घोषणा वर्ष 2022-23 के अन्तर्गत कार्य ''झुंझुनू के ग्राम समसपुर एवं ग्राम इस्लामपुर ने बाईपास सड़क निर्माण कार्य'' की अनुमानित लागत राशि रू. 5.18 करोड़ के स्थान पर राशि रू. 3.96 करोड़ पढ़ी जावे। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
(वी.एस. धनखड़)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. संभाग-प्रथम, जयपुर
DIPR/C/6101/2022

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
The Executive Engineer and Senior Manager (C)-I, Karaikal Project Division-I, CPWD, Karaikal - 609609 on behalf of the President of India invites **online percentage rate composite bids** from approved and eligible contractors of **CPWD of class III and above in Building and Roads category** and those of appropriate list of M.E.S., BSNL, Railway and Tamilnadu and Puducherry state PWD for the following work:
NIT No.:05/SE&PD/KPC/2021-22(Recall)-Recall 1-Recall 1
Name of work: Infrastructure development for NIT Puducherry at Karaikal. SH (4): Supply and filling of earth in and around proposed Engineering Block, Sports Complex, Open Sports Field, Boys Hostel Block II, Science Block & existing Administrative Block (Balance Work).
Estimated cost: **Rs. 11,17,39,687/-**
Earnest Money: **Rs.21,17,397/- (To be refunded after receipt of performance guarantee).**
Period of Completion: **90 days**
Last Time & date of submission of Bids: **Upto 17:00 Hrs on 11.05.2022.**
Last Time & date of opening of Bids: **Upto 17.30 Hrs on 11.05.2022.**
The Bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://etender.cpwd.gov.in** or **www.cpwd.gov.in.**

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BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570 003, Karnataka, India
Tel : +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax : +91 821 2582099
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY
BRBNMPL invites bids from eligible bidders for following tenders:
1. **Tender No.007/MYS/MMD/2022-23-** Supply of HDPE Woven Bags (A Type and B Type) at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
2. **Tender No. 008/MYS/MMD/2022-23-** Supply of Band Roll Paper 185mm width at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
3. **Tender No. 009/MYS/CIVIL/2022-23-** Annual Maintenance Contract of Township Maintenance and Facility Management Services at Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru.
For downloading tender documents, last date of submission of above tenders and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in.** Further corrigendum/ amendment to above tenders, if issued in future, will be notified on the Company website only.
General Manager

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं./Ph. No. 0471-2564568 / 2564545)
निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF TENDER
कार्य का शीर्षक / Title of works : आरपीएफ, वीएसएससी की पायरोजन प्रज्वालक उत्पादन सुविधा (एसपीएआरसी) के लिए 1 टन क्षमता के एकल गिर्डर ज्वालारोधी ईओटी क्रेन की अभिकल्पना, संविरचन, आपूर्ति, उत्थापन, परीक्षण व कमीशनिंग। Design, fabrication, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 1 Ton Capacity single girder Flame Proof EOT crane for Pyrogen Igniter Production facility (SPARC) at RPP, VSSC.
ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / E-Tender Notice No. : NIT No. VSSC/CMG/M01/01/2022-2023 Dated 06.04.2022

निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि / Last date for download the tender document	दिनांक 09.05.2022 तक बढ़ाया गया/Extended upto 09.05.2022
निविदाएं प्राप्त करने हेतु नियत तिथि / Due date for receipt of tenders	दिनांक 13.05.2022 तक बढ़ाया गया/Extended upto 13.05.2022
निविदा खोलने की तिथि / Opening of tenders	दिनांक 17.05.2022 तक बढ़ाया गया/Extended upto 17.05.2022

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआईटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO.
Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Group Director, CMG, VSSC

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Marketing Department Roc.No.M2-34022(31)/100/2022 Dated:27-04-2022
e-Tender-cum-Reverse Auctioning / Reverse Tendering Notice
e-Tenders are invited for "procurement of 1,20,000 Kgs of Cashew Split 'S' grade for a period of one month quantity" by the Marketing Department, T.T.D., Tirupati through online e-Tender-cum-Reverse Auctioning / Reverse Tendering process. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. Click on current Tenders and select "more" and "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams - MARKETING". For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No.0877-2264554.

Name of the Item	EMD Rs.	Tender Period	Date of Tender: Technical Bid	Date of Tender: Reverse Auction/ Reverse Tendering
1,20,000 Kgs of Cashew Splits 'S' Grade	Rs.23,50,000/- (Rupees twenty three lakhs and fifty thousand only (to be uploaded online)	One Month	12-05-2022	13-05-22 (02.00 p.m. to 05.00 p.m.)

Roc.No.PR4/13941/Adv.No.27/PRO/2022, Dated:28-04-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय संयुक्त निदेशक, पशुपालन विभाग, जयपुर
(चन्द्रा गार्डन के पास, आगरा रोड, जयपुर-302031) दूरभाष नं.-0141-2680808, Email-jdahjpr@gmail.com
क्रमांक: एफ.वी.( )प.स.स. नन्दी/2021-22/616 दिनांक : 22.4.2022
ई-बोली सूचना
(UBN No. ANH2223WSOB00025)
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री की बजट घोषणा के अंतर्गत जयपुर जिले की प्रत्येक पंचायत समिति स्तर पर संस्था का चयन नंदीशाला संचालन एवं आधारभूत परिसम्पत्तियों के निर्माण कार्यों हेतु ई-बोली प्रस्ताव दिनांक 25.05.2022 तक आमंत्रित किये जाते है। विस्तृत विवरण/शर्ते वेबसाइट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & http://gopalan.rajasthan.gov.in पर या कार्यालय संयुक्त निदेशक पशुपालन विभाग जयपुर में कार्यालय समय में देखी जा सकती है।

विवरण	अनुमानित मूल्य	प्रतिभूति राशि	बोली प्रपत्र शुल्क	ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रोसेसिंग फीस	प्रस्तावित ऑनलाइन बोली: बोली फार्म डाउनलोड प्रारंभ करने की दिनांक व समय	बोली फार्म अपलोड करने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय	तकनीकी ऑनलाइन बोली खोलने की दिनांक व समय
नंदीशाला संचालन एवं नंदीशाला में आधारभूत परिसम्पत्तियों का निर्माण कार्य हेतु संस्था के चयन बाबत बोली प्रस्ताव	157.00 लाख रूपये प्रति नन्दीशाला	सभी आवेदक संस्थाओं को बोली राशि का 2 प्रतिशत राशि रूपये 314000.00	रू. 1000/-	रू. 1000/-	दिनांक 04.05.2022 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से	दिनांक 25.05.2022 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 26.05.2022 समय दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक

(डॉ. प्रवीण कुमार सैन)
संयुक्त निदेशक, पशुपालन विभाग एवं सदस्य सचिव जिला गोपालन समिति जयपुर
DIPR/C/6052/22

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Marketing Department **e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**
e-tender cum e-Reverse tendering is invited for procurement of the following items by the Marketing Department, T.T.D., Tirupati.

Name of the Item	Quantity	Period	EMD Amount	Download Starting and Ending Dates
Cow Ghee with Agmark special Grade through Tankers from National wide Dairies	24,50,000 Kgs.	6 Months	Rs. 1,01,00,000/-	25-04-2022 10-05-2022

For tender notice and tender details log on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in / & https://konugolu.ap.gov.in. For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555. Fax No.0877-2264554.
Roc.No.PR4/13941/Adv.No.28/PRO/2022, Dated:28-04-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SC reserves orders in Delhi case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved for orders a plea by the Centre to refer the Delhi government's challenge to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, to a Constitution Bench.

During the hearing before a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, the Centre quoted practical difficulties in the governance of Delhi as a reason to justify the new law, which arms the Lieutenant-Governor with greater powers in the administration of the capital.

The Delhi government has described the status of Delhi as "hybrid" and unique, but certainly leaning towards statehood.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi government, said the new law had left a democratically elected government without powers even to transfer officials.

The NCT government's predicament without power over the "services" had been like that of a king without a kingdom, he had argued. The situation was such that a "democratic representative government" had to get the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint a Health Secretary or a Commerce Secretary.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta had argued that the case should be heard by a Constitution Bench as it involved several crucial constitutional questions of law.

Centre's employment survey finds addition of four lakh jobs

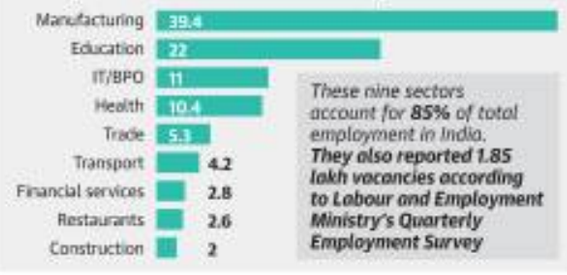
Union Labour Minister says 'rising trend in employment in organised sector'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over four lakh jobs were created in firms with 10 or more workers in nine selected sectors in October-December 2021, according to the Labour and Employment Ministry's third Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) report released on Thursday.

The Ministry's establishment-based survey, which covered 10,834 units in the third round, found employment had increased from 3.1 crore in July-September 2021 to 3.145 crore in the next quarter. The survey covered manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation and restaurants, IT/BPOs and financial services that accounted for 85% of the employment in units with 10 or more workers, the report said. The survey does not include units that were established after 2013-14.

Sectoral share | The chart shows the share of nine sectors in total employment. Manufacturing sector employed the highest number of workers followed by education



The manufacturing sector accounted for 39% of the units, followed by education (22%). Overall 23.55% of the units provided on-the-job training to workers, while the number was higher for health sector units (34.87%). At the same time, the nine sectors reported 1.85 lakh vacancies, with 81,846 in manufacturing, 47,076 in health and 39,014 in education. The report stated that 86.5% of the vacancies were "in the process of being filled up". About 4% of the vacancies remained due to "non-availability of requisite skilled workers".

Releasing the findings, Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav said in a tweet that the the third round report of QES had shown "a rising trend in employment in organised sector".

With 3,303 fresh cases, COVID infections on the rise

Mild surge first time in 46 days; 39 fatalities in 24 hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India witnessed an uptick in the number of COVID-19 cases, reporting 3,303 fresh cases in the 24 hours prior to 8 a.m. on Thursday, the Union Health Ministry said.

This is the first time in 46 days more than 3,000 daily cases have been reported.

With these fresh cases, the case tally stood at 4,30,68,799. A total of 39 fatalities were reported in the 24 hours. On Wednesday 2,927 cases were reported.

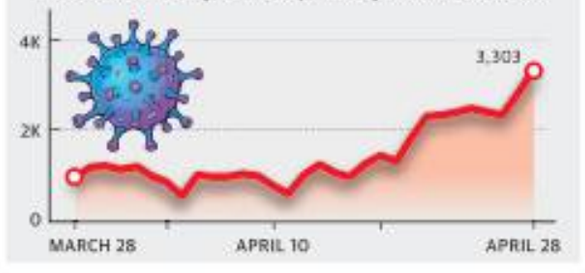
According to Health Ministry data, 2,563 people who got the infection were discharged in the 24 hours, taking the total recovery rate to 98.75% and the total recoveries to 4,25,28,126. The total fatalities stood at 5,23,693.

On Thursday, Delhi recorded 1,367 infections, which is 58.61% of the total cases, followed by Maharashtra, with 186 cases.

India's active caseload stood at 16,980, accounting for 0.04% of the total cases.

The Centre said the vaccination coverage had crossed 188.62 crore on Thursday.

Rising worry | The chart shows India's daily new COVID-19 cases. While the cases breached the 3,000-mark on Wednesday, the test positivity ratio rose to 0.7%



BHU backs V-C's decision to attend iftar at college

Some students burn him in effigy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Banaras Hindu University on Thursday defended the Vice-Chancellor (V-C) for attending an iftar party at a college after some elements objected to it, saying it amounted to Muslim appeasement.

Sudhir K. Jain, on Wednesday, attended an iftar in the Mahila Mahavidyalaya on the invitation of students and faculty members. Other senior officials of the university were present.

Some students, purportedly from the varsity, took out a march and burnt the V-C in effigy. They raised slogans accusing him of Muslim appeasement.

The BHU, however, said the tradition of organising iftar in the university dated back to more than two decades. These iftar events were attended by the vice-chancellors over the years in their capacity as the head of the BHU fraternity, said a university spokesperson. Attempts to disturb the peace are unacceptable, the BHU spokesperson said.

Bengal offers seats for all students back from Ukraine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said here on Thursday that her government had offered seats to all students who had to return to the State from Ukraine without completing academic programmes.

She said that after her meeting with the students on March 16, senior officials had devised a plan for each category of them. Of the 422 who returned, 412 were medical students – 409 MBBS and three dental students.

"All the six engineering students have been offered seats in private engineering colleges under the JIS group. For the dental students, one student who has completed his studies will be allowed to do his internship at the Government Dental College in Kolkata, while the remaining two students in the second year will be allowed to do observership and practical classes at the government dental colleges," a press statement said.

She said 23 students in the sixth year of the medical course would be allowed to do the internship in government colleges. "For the fifth and fourth year students, 135 will be allowed to undergo 'observing seat' at medical colleges in a distributed manner – 15-20 students per college. The third and second year students (93 and 79, respectively, totalling 172) will be allowed to attend 'practical classes' at the different government colleges. For first and second year students (total 78), those who are NEET qualified for 2021 (69 students) have been allowed to appear for counselling," she added.

IT House panel to summon tech giants

It will discuss competitive conduct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

With a number of global tech giants facing Competition Commission of India (CCI) probe for alleged anti-competitive practices, a key parliamentary panel on Thursday decided to summon representatives of Google, Amazon, Facebook, Twitter and others to examine their competitive behaviour. The next meeting of the panel on the issue is likely to be held on May 12.

The issue was discussed in detail by members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance after a presentation was made before it by the CCI.

The regulator told the panel that it was setting up a "digital markets and data unit" for effectively dealing with anti-competition practices of big tech companies and bringing in a new Bill to amend the CCI Act.

The CCI also cited a number of investigations it is carrying out in the digital space, including those against Google, Facebook-WhatsApp, Apple and so on.

Meeting of High Court Chief Justices from today

CJI Ramana will chair the conference

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana will chair the 39th Conference of the Chief Justices of High Courts, scheduled to be held on Friday after a gap of six years.

The main topics of discussion would be strengthening the network and connectivity at court complexes pan India on a priority basis, human resources and personnel policy needs at district courts, better infrastructure and capacity-building, legal and institutional reforms and appointment of High Court judges.

Infrastructure authority

The conference would also deliberate on the establishment of a national judicial infrastructure authority and State judicial infrastructure authorities as special purpose vehicles at the Central and State levels for development of infrastructure in district courts.

Justices U.U. Lalit and A.M. Khanwilkar, most senior judges of the Supreme Court after the CJI, would also participate in the conference.

The court has been organising the conference of Chief Justices of High Courts with the object to deliberate on issues related to the judiciary.

The first conference was held in November 1953, and till date, 38 conferences have been organised.

The conference would be followed by a Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on Saturday.

This would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Prepare for swift conflicts: IAF chief

In view of the Ukraine war, he seeks serviceability-linked inventory management

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

There is a need to re-evaluate demand forecasting methods and stocking philosophies and the way forward will be to have a "serviceability-linked inventory management system", the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, said on Thursday.

His comments come against the backdrop of the Ukraine war and apprehensions on timely delivery of spares and systems from Russia for the Indian armed forces.

Addressing the national logistics seminar of the Indian Air Force, he stressed preparation for short swift wars and the need to be ready for a long-drawn stand-off akin to "what we are seeing" in eastern Ladakh.

"In order to standardise logistical functions and provide a blueprint for the future, we must look at a vision document for operational-logistics that would define the foundational precincts of logistics support in IAF during combat," he said. "I am certain that availability of such a document will act as a guide for commanders and logisticians to help transform logistics into a future ready, combat empowering entity."

IAF chief V.R. Chaudhari with senior officers during the logistics seminar in New Delhi on Thursday. • PTI

The geopolitical situation necessitates the IAF to prepare for intense and small-duration operations at a short notice, he said and this new paradigm of high-intensity operations, coupled with minimal build-up time, would require major changes in terms of operational logistics.

Saying effective logistics management is "key to sustenance" of the IAF's combat potential, the IAF chief said recent experiences and the evolving geopolitical scenario mandated the force to be operationally and logistically responsive at all times.

Stocking policies

He said flexible stocking policies with modern forecasting techniques would help in demand sensing and prepositioning of items at bases. "We must also review our procurement strategies to reduce lead time for supplies and pre-empt problems of supply chain obsolescence."

Pointing that during contingencies, the roads and rail heads would be choked due to simultaneous movement of the Army along the same axes, ACM Chaudhari said, "Towards this, we need to formalise an integrated road and rail management plan and explore the feasibility of increased containerisation and use of civilian wide-bodied aircraft."

Centre reinstates J&K IAS officer Shah Faesal

He says that his idealism let him down

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Shah Faesal, who resigned from the IAS and was detained for over a year after the dilution of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, has been reinstated in service by the Centre.

Mr. Faesal, who founded the J&K People's Movement, had moved a petition in the Supreme Court against the Centre's decision on Article 370. The 2010 UPSC examination topper was detained at the Delhi airport on August 14, 2019.

A senior government official confirmed that Mr. Faesal has been reinstated. He, however, awaits posting. A Jammu and Kashmir-cadre IAS officer, he will now be serving the Union Territory or AGMUT cadre, under the direct control of the Union Home Ministry.

On Wednesday, Mr. Faesal posted a series of tweets, saying he was ready to start all over again and that his idealism let him down.

Shah Faesal

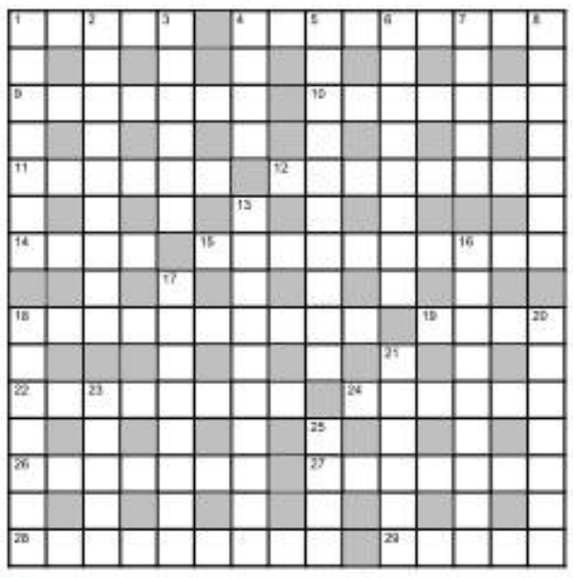
The government did not accept his resignation but initiated disciplinary proceedings against him for some of his tweets posted in 2018. He was released from detention on June 3, 2020 and continued to remain under house arrest. Soon after his release in Srinagar, he dropped all references to the JKPM from his Twitter handle and deleted all old posts from his timeline.

TH CROSSWORD + 13543

(set by Gussalufz)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Repeated refusals to eat one round vegetable (5)
4 Order screw that is short, twisting around, and tapers (9)
9 Brief comeback in theatre is so disastrous (7)
10 Frequently overlooked, is academic drug abuse cooler? (3,4)
11 Lots of pasta but no starter (6)
12 Extremely sharp and extremely hot Kelvin displacing Charlie (8)
14 Dull-witted, sickly gangster bumped off (4)
15 Aroma, Inc.! Our secret? Eating bean casserole, perhaps (4,6)
18 Size of nuclear family? (4,6)
19 Popular time to chase married moneymaker (4)
22 Rum and lemonade, 50% each: dainty, quirky, and rich! (8)
24 Prior sentence, after regular review, is cut (6)
26 Check account to align every now and then (7)
27 Lovers finally ran off after suffering stigmas (7)
28 Glares angrily at some shocking and extremely egregious gifts (9)
29 Groom's preparation (5)

DOWN

1 Regularly ignored sordid entrepreneur's menial chores (3,4)
2 Current with unsteady sinusoid is potentially harmful (9)
3 Going through Singapore via Nanning while returning is less practical (6)
4 Remarkable raise after lowering a bit of expenditure (4)
5 Saga this distant relative of mine misused for cheap magazines? (10)
6 Bond? OK, enter dramatically while embracing female (4,4)
7 Sex with dude without initiations creates issue (5)
8 Second/minute – time that is precious! (7)
13 Upon getting hacked, Germany is lodging many complaints (10)
16 Check (to get more confident) one providing some protection a second time (9)
17 Heartless drone under mindless control (8)
18 About to sit in Radio &TV Apprentice Test (7)
20 Oppression of dashed city under theocracy ends (7)
21 God-like attitude (if I choose to show!) (6)
23 Victor, when wife's gone, gets intimate! (5)
25 Takes after sailor, hurls swear words (4)

SUDOKU

						6	8	2
6	4			5				
		3	6					7
	2	9		4				6
	3			9			1	
4				3		9	2	
5					1	2		
				7			5	4
1	9	7						

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13542

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	9	1	3	7	5	4	6
1	3	5	4	6	8	9	2	7
4	6	7	5	2	9	1	3	8
9	5	6	3	7	2	8	1	4
2	1	3	6	8	4	7	5	9
7	8	4	9	5	1	2	6	3
3	7	2	8	1	6	4	9	5
6	9	1	7	4	5	3	8	2
5	4	8	2	9	3	6	7	1

FAITH

Supremacy of Yoga Maya

The puranas discuss many basic features such as the primary and secondary creation, the concept of the cyclic time, etc. They tell us about how dharma that supports all existence and creation tends to get disrupted in the course of time. In the Devi Bhagavata Purana, it is shown that the task of restoring dharma is accomplished by the Supreme Yoga Maya who holds the entire sway over all, pointed out Sri K. Srinivasan in a discourse. She is the prime force behind all and even the powerful Trimurtis – Vishnu, Brahma or Rudra – are able to act according to Her Will. They are not swatantra. This truth is explained by Vishnu to Brahma, Indra and other celestial beings when they accompanied Goddess Earth to seek the Lord for His help to alleviate the burden of Bhu who was tormented by the power of the evil forces.

Vishnu states that all the control rests with Yoga Maya. He recalls the various incarnations He had taken and how He had undergone untold sufferings and miseries in each case. Why should He incarnate as a fish or a boar or a tortoise? Why should He take the forms of Vamana or Narasimha? There was no enthusiasm in taking these forms. He further asks that why should He suffer the trauma of staying in the mother's womb, a destiny written for only the karma bound jivatmas? He did not get any personal benefit by all these acts. Or for that matter he asks if He would have ever taken a harsh and cruel avatar as Parasurama out of His own will. It was quite contrary to His nature.

It is a contrast to Rama avatar when He was known to act with dharma and compassion. Rama was considerate to even Ravana, the enemy He had to defeat to rescue Sita. But Vishnu had to take such avatars under the command of Yoga Maya.

Biden proposes $33-bn aid for Ukraine

He wants assets linked to Russian oligarchs in the U.S. seized, proceeds directed towards helping Kyiv

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

In a step to redirect Russian wealth towards the rebuilding of Ukraine, some of whose cities have been decimated by sustained battering from invading Russian forces since the end of February, U.S. President Joe Biden announced he would propose that U.S.-based assets of Russian oligarchs be seized and directed towards Ukraine. Mr. Biden's proposal was announced as part of a larger announcement that he was asking the U.S. Congress to approve an additional $33 billion dollars in security, humanitarian and economic assistance for Ukraine.

Strong support: President Joe Biden speaking about the Ukraine war in the White House on Thursday • AP

"We're going to seize their yachts or luxury homes and the other ill begotten gains of Putin's kleptocracy," Mr. Biden said, as he delivered remarks at the White House on Thursday morning.

The President's proposal involves the seizure of U.S.-based assets of sanctioned Russians, connected to a specific activity deemed unlawful. The process, which will involve the U.S. Treasury, State and Justice Departments, will also seek powers to expand the list of assets potentially available for forfeiture to include property that is used to assist in the evasion of sanctions. Current U.S. law only permits the forfeiture of proceeds from sanction violations not assets used to facilitate this process.

The proposal would also allow seized assets to be deployed towards helping Ukraine. "It's going to ensure that when the oligarchs' assets are sold off, funds can be used directly to remedy the harm Russia caused," Mr. Biden said.

The U.S. Treasury has already sanctioned and blocked Russians' aircraft and vessels worth over $1 billion, as per a statement from the White House on Thursday.

European Union countries had reported freezing over $30 billion in assets, including nearly $7 billion in real estate, helicopters, boats and artwork, according to the White House.

Asked last week about the U.S. using frozen assets of the Russian central bank to help rebuild Ukraine, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen demurred, saying it would probably involve legislative changes. "I am unclear whether or not it would be possible without legislation authorising the use of those assets," Ms. Yellen had said, adding the U.S. would need to "carefully" assess the consequences before undertaking it.

"I wouldn't want to do so lightly and it's something that I think our coalition and partners would need to feel comfortable with and be supportive of," she had said.

Civil liberties groups had informed lawmakers earlier in April that a similar plan, floated in March, could have violated due-process rights granted by the U.S. Constitution since, the *Washington Post* reported.

Xi's 'Global Security Initiative' looks to counter Quad grouping

This is to 'oppose unilateralism, and say 'no' to group politics'

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

A new Global Security Initiative put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping will look to counter the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad – the India, U.S., Australia, Japan grouping – according to Chinese officials.

Mr. Xi last week first proposed what he called a Global Security Initiative, speaking at the Boao Forum in China, warning against "hegemonism, power politics and bloc confrontation".

"China would like to propose a Global Security Initiative, that is, to stay committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security," he said, which would "oppose unilateralism, and say no to group politics and bloc confrontation."

Specifically, he said this would "oppose the wanton use of unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction", appearing to refer to Western sanctions.

Further fleshing out what this Global Security Initiative would entail, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi earlier this week penned an article in the official *People's Daily* outlining key principles of the idea.

Xi Jinping

He said "some countries" were "eager to engage in exclusive 'small circles' and 'small groups'", terms Chinese officials have used previously to describe the Quad as well as the AUKUS (Australia-U.K.-U.S.) security pact.

In the article, Mr. Wang said China's proposed security initiative would "oppose" what he called "the destruction of the international order under the banner of so-called 'rules' and the dragging of the world under the cloud of the 'new cold war'", and would "build an Asian security model of mutual respect, openness and integration".

"We firmly oppose the use of the 'Indo-Pacific' strategy to divide the region and create a 'new Cold War', and the use of military alliances to put together an 'Asian version of NATO'," he said.

Mr. Wang had also taken aim at the Quad last month, suggesting during the annual National People's Congress in Beijing that the grouping was equivalent to the "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance involving the Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the U.S. and U.K. and the AUKUS pact, as a key element in what he called U.S. plans to build an "Asian NATO"

The members of the Quad have rejected the notion that it is an Asian NATO or a military alliance, and pointed to its broad-based cooperation, including on vaccines and technology. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in February "there are interested parties who advance that kind of analogy". "I would urge you not to slip into that lazy analogy of an Asian-NATO," he said, pointing out India was not a treaty ally of the U.S.

Russia plans referendum in seized Ukraine areas: U.S.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

The U.S. accused Russia on Thursday of planning to stage fake independence votes to justify its conquest of territory in Ukraine, as Russian forces stepped up their assault on the east.

The U.S. mission to the OSCE security body said the Kremlin might attempt "sham referenda" in southern and eastern areas it had captured.

"These falsified, illegitimate referenda will undoubtedly be accompanied by a wave of abuses against those who seek to oppose or undermine Moscow's plans," it said.

"The international community must make clear that any such referendum will never be recognised as legitimate."

Ukraine said there were explosions overnight in the southern city of Kherson, the only regional capital Russia has captured so far.

Russian troops there used tear gas and stun grenades on Wednesday to suppress pro-Ukrainian crowds, and were now shelling the entire surrounding region and attacking towards Mykolaiv and Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine said.

New gang fighting in Haiti kills 20, displaces thousands

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PORT-AU-PRINCE

Fighting among gangs in recent days killed at least 20 people, wounded nearly two dozen and caused thousands to flee their homes, Haiti's Civil Protection Agency said on Wednesday.

Officials said the fighting began on Sunday in four neighbourhoods in the capital of Port-au-Prince. At least a dozen homes were burned down as thousands of people fled their communities, with some staying in the yard of a local Mayor's office.

The clashes come amid a spike in violence and kidnappings as gangs grow more powerful and seek to control more territory amid the power vacuum following the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

The situation has angered and frustrated Haitians, who are demanding action from Prime Minister Ariel Henry's administration, which is receiving international help to boost police force.

At least nine killed in two Afghan blasts

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Two bomb blasts aboard separate minibuses killed at least nine people on Thursday in Afghanistan's Mazar-i-Sharif, police said, a week after a deadly explosion rocked a Shia mosque in the northern city.

Thursday's blasts occurred within minutes of each other in different districts of Mazar-i-Sharif as commuters were heading home to break their dawn-to-dusk Ramzan fast, Balkh provincial police spokesman Asif Waziri said.

"The targets appear to be Shia passengers," he said, adding 13 people were wounded in the blasts. "The enemies of Afghanistan are creating tension and division among our people."

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Sri Lanka's worker unions go on strike

Thousands hit the streets chanting anti-govt. slogans, seeking Rajapaksas ouster

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Several hundred worker unions in Sri Lanka on Thursday went on a mass strike, backing ongoing citizens' protests calling for the resignation of the ruling Rajapaksa brothers, as the country battles one of its worst economic crises.

Show of strength: Members of various trade unions protesting in Colombo during a nationwide strike on Thursday. • REUTERS

Thousands employed in the health, education, road transport, ports, and railways sectors, struck work, held rallies, and chanted anti-government slogans. For months now, citizens have been struggling to access essentials food items, fuel, and cooking gas, while contending with daily power cuts owing to a rapid economic downturn that government critics believe could have been averted with timely action from the leaders. As the crisis deepened, manifesting in severe shortages and record inflation, what began as small scale, neighbourhood protests across the island, swiftly morphed into a national movement resisting the once formidable Rajapaksa brand.

"If President Gotabaya Rajapaksa does not heed the call of the people's struggle within seven days, we will continue agitating until he steps down," said Ravi Kumudesh, Convenor of the collective of unions. Despite demonstrators' unceasing demand for his resignation, President Gotabaya remains in power, only offering to form a new, all-party government under his Presidency.

The political opposition has rejected the offer. President Gotabaya is scheduled to meet with coalition partners on Friday to discuss forming an interim government, amid speculation that he may sack his older brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to accommodate such an arrangement. Meanwhile, Mr. Mahinda has said he will not resign, claiming that he still enjoys people's support.

Angry citizens who have been gathering in protest outside the Presidential Secretariat for some three weeks now, have begun protesting outside Mr. Mahinda's official residence as well, waving national flags and displaying caricatures portraying him as Hitler.

The political stalemate has sparked concern among Sri Lanka's big businesses and private sector, who have urged authorities to take swift action, as the social unrest "may deter" any external help coming Sri Lanka's way.

TAMIL NADU ARASU CABLE TV CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
Registered Office: Dugar Towers, 6th Floor, No. 36 (123), Marshalls Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008. Telephone No: 044-28432911, Fax No: 044-28432913.
CIN: U64204TN2007SGC064950 E-Mail: tactv@tactv.in

Tender No: TACTV/Manpower/RC/1/2022

Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV) invites sealed Tenders from reputed Manpower agencies in "Two Cover System" for the selection and appointment of manpower agency for providing manpower on outsourcing basis for a period of 3 years. The details of the Tender will be available at www.tactv.in and www.tenders.tn.gov.in from 29.4.2022. onwards. The Tender documents can be downloaded free of cost from these websites. The last date for submission of Tender is 30.5.2022.

DIPR/2025/Tender/2022
Sd/-
Managing Director

COCHIN PORT AUTHORITY
Chief Engineer's Office
Cochin - 682 009
No: CFH/T-1964/2022-C 27-04-2022
E-TENDER NOTICE
Bids are invited online for **"Modernisation and Upgradation of Cochin Fisheries Harbour including providing equipments and carrying out necessary dredging work at Thoppumpady, Kochi on EPC Contract Basis".**
Estimated cost: ₹ 9197 lakhs; For details visit: **www.cochinport.gov.in or www.tenders.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/COPT**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer
(Ph. 0484-258 2400/2403)

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022
Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-1846/03/2022/ 10266 Dated : 27.04.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
1. Name of the Work : Construction of SFRC Precast, pre-tensioned compound wall around 160.56 acre of land at Taljaring under Junagarh Tahasil in the district of Kalahandi.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.184 lakhs (Approx.)
3. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID /Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-12/2022-23	06.05.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.	23.05.2022 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.idco.in.**
CAD-345
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-14003/11/0033/2223

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. E148-CN-TPJ-TF-029
Dated: 27.04.2022
For and on behalf of The President of India, the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (General), Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the work of **Tiruchirappalli - Ponmalai Workshop - Proposed construction of new POH facilities for maintenance of LHB coaches - Electrical arrangements in LHB shed for POH facilities and electrification of service buildings - Works contract** with the above tender notice. Date of tender opening is **20.05.2022** at **12.00 Hrs.** All the other details of this tender are available in **www.ireps.gov.in** website.
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Chennai Egmore
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

e-mail-eerwss_kpt@rediffmail.com
Ph. No.06852-250281(Off) ; Ph.No. 06852-250680 (Res); Fax. No. 06852-251058
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RWSS DIVISION, KORAPUT
Phone : 06852-250281; e-mail-eerwsskpt@rediffmail.com : No.1731 2022-23 Dt.25.04.2022
1st CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.01/SE/ RWSS / KPT /2022-23/ 08.04.2022
Due to some unavoidable circumstances the Annexures of the Price Bid were not added in the SBD & Some typocal Errors in BOQ (Price Bid), the e-Procurement Notice no. 01/SE/RWSS/KPT/2022-23/06.04.2022, is hereby added with the required Annexures and BOQ has been rectified in following tender ID Nos.

Sl No	Description for works	Tender ID No
1	7 Nos of Clubbed up PWS under Pottangi Block in the District Koraput	2022_RWSS_77128_1
2	4 Nos of Clubbed up PWS Schemes under Pottangi Block in the District Koraput	2022_RWSS_77128_2
3	7 Nos of Clubbed up PWS Schemes under Semiliguda Block in the District Koraput	2022_RWSS_77128_3
4	7 Nos of Clubbed up PWS Schemes under Koraput & Semiliguda Block in the District Koraput	2022_RWSS_77128_4
5	9 Nos of Clubbed up PWS Schemes under Laxmipur Block in the District Koraput	2022_RWSS_77128_5
6	12 Nos of Clubbed up PWS Schemes under Bandhugam Block in the District Koraput	2022_RWSS_77128_6
7	11 Nos of Clubbed up PWS Schemes under Bandhugam Block in the District Koraput	2022_RWSS_77128_7

All other terms and conditions remained unaltered
O-134
Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Koraput.
OIPR-25034/11/0002/2223

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A group company of IndianOil)
Regd. Office: 536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018
Website : www.cpcl.co.in ; Email id: investors@cpcl.co.in
Tel: 044-24349833 / 24346807
CIN - L40101TN1965GOI005389

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022
(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		Three Months Ended			Year Ended		Three Months Ended			Year Ended	
		31.03.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1.	Total income from operations	20697.13	13591.70	14705.48	60474.29	41899.07	20697.13	13591.70	14705.48	60474.29	41899.07
	Other Income	13.33	0.57	28.96	23.66	106.88	13.34	0.57	28.96	17.74	100.97
	Total Income	21010.46	13592.27	14734.43	60497.95	42005.95	21010.47	13592.27	14734.44	60492.03	42000.04
	Total Expenditure	19643.47	13290.93	14401.48	58999.31	40729.41	19643.54	13290.82	14401.48	58668.37	40729.38
2.	**Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)**	**1366.99**	**301.34**	**332.95**	**1831.64**	**1276.54**	**1374.49**	**304.95**	**343.14**	**1841.25**	**1296.24**
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1366.99	301.34	332.95	1831.64	1276.54	1374.49	304.95	343.14	1841.25	1296.24
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	994.42	228.83	231.79	1342.42	237.56	1001.92	232.44	241.98	1352.00	257.26
5.	**Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]**	**1017.66**	**228.83**	**226.52**	**1365.66**	**232.29**	**1025.42**	**232.44**	**236.65**	**1375.53**	**251.93**
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				2641.32	1025.62				2837.82	1212.25
8.	Securities Premium Account					250.04					250.04
9.	Networth				2790.23	1434.57				2986.73	1611.20
10.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				2730.00	8647.97				2730.00	8647.97
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 (2020:50,00,00,000) Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)				500.00	500.00				500.00	500.00
12.	Debt Equity Ratio				3.31	6.42				3.06	5.68
13.	Earnings Per Share (of ₹. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)										
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	66.78	15.37	15.57	90.15	15.95	67.28	15.61	16.25	90.80	17.28
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	66.78	15.37	15.57	90.15	15.95	67.28	15.61	16.25	90.80	17.28
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve				700.00	600.00				700.00	600.00
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio				2.59	1.22				2.60	1.24
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio				6.66	5.65				6.69	5.70

Note: 1
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Rajeev Allawadi
Director (Finance)
DIN: 07826722

Place : Chennai
Date : April 27, 2022

MARKET WATCH

	28-04-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	57,521	1.23
US Dollar	76.61	-0.05
Gold	51,010	-0.43
Brent oil	106.66	1.84

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	887.10	-0.20
Apollo Hosp	4537.85	14.90
Asian Paints	3247.70	98.35
Axis Bank	779.80	13.90
Bajaj Auto	3834.40	-71.25
Bajaj Finserv	15011.85	185.45
Bajaj Finance	6727.65	13.55
Bharti Airtel	747.35	-5.15
BPCL	369.35	2.85
Britannia Ind	3357.90	19.65
Cipla	981.20	3.45
Coal India	190.25	2.75
Divis Lab	4564.60	34.00
Dr Reddys Lab	4122.15	45.10
Eicher Motors	2679.95	24.50
Grasim Ind	1711.90	11.70
HCL Tech	1092.50	-3.10
HDFC	2224.00	5.30
HDFC Bank	1371.35	-1.20
HDFC Life	571.40	23.75
Hero MotoCorp	2517.30	17.30
Hindalco	488.60	-3.70
Hind Unilever	2241.85	96.75
ICICI Bank	747.15	10.45
Indusind Bank	988.35	13.85
Infosys	1582.60	29.80
ITC	261.10	3.60
JSW Steel	729.10	8.50
Kotak Bank	1765.65	24.15
L&T	1719.25	42.20
M&M	922.90	-3.95
Maruti Suzuki	7888.15	99.75
Nestle India Ltd.	18427.70	204.70
NTPC	159.70	4.05
ONGC	164.80	-0.05
PowerGrid Corp	235.60	6.30
Reliance Ind	2819.85	41.50
SBI Life	1116.85	42.65
State Bank	507.50	10.25
Shree Cement	25872.60	297.80
Sun Pharma	921.00	14.90
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	811.65	13.05
Tata Motors	436.05	5.80
Tata Steel	1260.85	14.15
TCS	3584.30	23.10
Tech Mahindra	1271.30	10.05
Titan	2513.20	20.85
UltraTech Cement	6616.95	68.50
UPL	824.30	25.90
Wipro	522.55	3.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	76.28	76.60
Euro	80.16	80.53
British Pound	95.24	95.68
Japanese Yen (100)	58.55	58.80
Chinese Yuan	11.54	11.59
Swiss Franc	78.44	78.78
Singapore Dollar	55.02	55.26
Canadian Dollar	59.33	59.61
Malaysian Ringgit	17.48	17.57
Australian Dollar	54.13	54.40

Source: Indian Bank

Antitrust regulator CCI said to raid 2 of Amazon's top sellers

Cloudtail, Appario are accused of violating India's competition laws

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India's antitrust body conducted raids on Thursday against two top domestic sellers of online retail giant Amazon.com Inc. over accusations of having violated competition laws, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Indian retailers, a key part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support base, have long contended that Amazon's platform largely benefits a few big sellers, with the firm engaging in predatory pricing that harms their businesses.

The company says it complies with all Indian laws.

Question of clout: Indian retailers contend that Amazon's platform largely benefits a few big sellers. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

The exact nature of the purported violations prompting Thursday's raids was not immediately clear. The two sellers were Cloudtail and Appario, the sources said on condition of anonymity, as the details were not public.

Amazon, which has an indirect equity stake in both, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Cloudtail, Appario and the regulator, the Competition Commission of India (CCI), also did not immediately respond to emailed queries.

New Delhi, Bengaluru

One source said the raids, carried out in New Delhi and the tech hub of Bengaluru, related to CCI's investigation ordered in January 2020.

In that case, Amazon and rival Walmart's Flipkart face accusations of anti-competitive practices, such as promoting preferred sellers on websites and giving priority to listings by some sellers.

The firms deny the accusations, and the antitrust investigation continues.

Reporting of cyber breaches made mandatory for all firms

Escalation must within 6 hours of detection: MeitY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has made it mandatory for all service providers, intermediaries, data centre providers, corporates as well as government organisations to report cyber incidents within six hours of their detection.

To strengthen India's overall cybersecurity position, the country's nodal cybersecurity agency has also issued additional directions relating to synchronisation of ICT system clocks, maintenance of logs of ICT systems and subscriber/customer registration details by data centres, virtual private server (VPS) providers, VPN service providers and cloud service providers.

CERT-In has identified gaps that cause hindrance in incident analysis

"To coordinate response activities as well as emergency measures with respect to cybersecurity incidents, CERT-In calls for information from service providers, intermediaries, data centres and body corporate," the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) said in a statement.

"During the course of handling cyber incidents and interactions with the constituency, CERT-In has identified certain gaps causing hindrance in incident analysis," it added.

It said that to address the identified gaps and facilitate incident response measures, CERT-In had issued directions relating to information security practices, procedure, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents. These directions will take effect after 60 days.

"Any service provider, intermediary, data centre, body corporate and government organisation shall mandatorily report cyber incidents... to CERT-In within 6 hours of noticing such incidents or being brought to notice about such incidents," the directions issued by CERT-In state.

Gold demand slid 18% in Q1 as prices rose: WGC

Demand for jewellery fell 26%, it said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

India's gold demand declined 18% to 135.5 tonnes in the first three months of this year, mainly on account of a sharp rise in prices, according to the World Gold Council (WGC).

In terms of value, gold demand dropped 12% to ₹61,550 crore. It stood at ₹69,720 crore in the year-earlier period, the 'Gold Demand Trends Q1 2022' report of the WGC said.

WGC Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram P. R. told PTI that gold prices began rising in January, increasing by 8% to ₹45,434 per 10 grams (without taxes) in the first quarter of this year, mainly due to geopolitical tensions. As per the report, total jewellery demand in the country during the latest March quarter fell 26% to 94.2 tonnes.

"After rising to record levels in the fourth quarter of 2021, India's gold jewellery demand fell by 26% y-o-y in the first quarter of this year to 94 tonnes. Since 2010, barring the pandemic periods, this is only the third time the first quarter total has been below 100 tonnes," Mr. Somasundaram said.

Manesar units hit as Haryana reels under power crisis

Long outages have also hit water supply in industrial hub

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Haryana's industrial sector including in the key hub of Manesar has been hit hard by a fortnight-long power crisis. The State's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises especially have been among the hardest hit, with long power outages also disrupting the supply of water to the industry, and making these units dependent on tankers to meet the demand.

Scheduled power cuts for 8-10 hours overnight as well as frequent unscheduled outages, ranging from 30 minutes to an hour, during the day had brought the industry, especially the MSMEs, to its knees, asserted Manmohan Gaind, general secretary, Manesar Industries Welfare Association. "It has been going on for the past two-three weeks. Such power crisis is unprecedented. The power supply management of the government has been excellent over the past four-five years, but this summer the situation is very grim," said Mr. Gaind.

Adding to industry's woes, the high fuel rates have made it difficult for factory owners to run diesel generator sets for long hours. "The DG sets can be used for power backup for a shorter period of time, and not to run the factory for hours together. Also, with the diesel prices touching ₹100 per litre, the cost of running a DG set comes to around ₹30 per unit," observed Mr. Gaind.

Haryana Power Minister Ranjit Singh has said the State would get about 1,500 MW additional power in 10 days. If needed more electricity would be arranged from the market, he added.

'Coal will be key energy source even in 2040'

India 'pragmatic' in coal debate: WCA

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Coal would remain the most significant contributor in the energy sector even in 2040, Michelle Manook, CEO, World Coal Association (WCA), said on Thursday.

Ms. Manook was speaking in Kolkata at an event where the WCA announced a partnership with Gainwell Engineering to promote sustainable coal mining in India. "There is a future for coal and with the current confluence of energy events that you are seeing, there is very much an understanding and a belief that the energy trilemma is something that really needs to be addressed. This is about affordability, energy security and reliability," she said.

Michelle Manook

Ms. Manook flagged the International Energy Association's projections for 2040 that showed coal would still be the 'most significant contributor' at about 22-23%. "Energy pie will get bigger but coal will still be an important part of the pie," she added.

IN BRIEF

Minister dedicates to nation JSPL's rebar mill

ANGUL

Steel Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh dedicated JSPL's 1.4 MTPA TMT rebar mill located at the steel unit here to the nation. The rebar mill is one of the world's largest rebar making units, Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (JSPL) said in a statement. PTI

Tatas said to ramp up EV production to 80,000

NEW DELHI

Tata Motors expects to aggressively ramp up annual production of electric vehicles (EVs) to more than 80,000 units this financial year, sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters. That compares with the 19,000 EVs it built and sold in the last financial year. Tata, India's biggest automaker, declined to comment on production plans. REUTERS

Omicron, trade weigh on U.S. economy in first quarter

GDP dips 1.4% in first slide in two years; imports surge

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

The U.S. economy unexpectedly contracted in the first quarter amid a resurgence in COVID-19 cases and drop in pandemic relief money from the government, but the decline in output is misleading as domestic demand remained strong.

The first decrease in gross domestic product in close to two years, reported by the Commerce Department on Thursday, was mostly driven by a wider trade deficit as imports surged, and a slowdown in the pace of inventory accumulation from the fourth quarter's pace.

A measure of domestic demand accelerated from the fourth quarter's pace, allaying fears of either stagflation or a recession. The Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates by 50 basis points next Wednesday.

"The economy is still showing some resilience, but the first-quarter GDP report signals the start of more moderate growth this year and next, largely in response to higher interest rates," said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Gross domestic product fell at a 1.4% annualised rate last quarter, the government said in its advance GDP estimate. The economy grew at a robust 6.9% pace in the fourth quarter.

Keen to build omnichannel presence: LIC

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

LIC said it was in the process of strengthening its omnichannel presence in the country to make itself directly accessible to a larger population. "Currently, 95% of our policyholders are brought to the system through agency channel," said MD Mini Ipe.

Meanwhile, DIPAM Director Rahul Jain said that the initial response to LIC's IPO announcement had been encouraging as about 6.48 crore policyholders had already linked their PAN with policy details as on February 28, 2022, well within the cut-off date.

ECGC to seek RBI nod for payment in forex to exporters

Aim is to help reduce costs for exporters, says chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

ECGC Ltd., the government enterprise that provides export credit insurance, will soon approach the Reserve Bank of India for approval to deal in foreign currency for the benefit of exporters.

"We are trying various methods to help reduce the cost for exporters," M. Senthilnathan, CMD, ECGC, said on Thursday. "Once permission is given to ECGC as authorised dealer of factoring in foreign currency, may be, we will do more factoring. Currently only 3 to 4 exporters are doing factoring," he added.

He was speaking at a webinar organised by ECGC and *The Hindu* on 'The importance of Export Credit Insurance for MSME exporters in post-COVID trade'.

A. Sakthivel, president, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, urged the ECGC to devise credit insurance products for MSMEs that form a large chunk of the export community. He also said the ECGC should consider setting a fixed time limit for claims settlement.

Coffee Exporters Association president Ramesh Rajah said commodity-specific insurance covers will help reduce costs for coffee exporters. "If ECGC is increasing the rates, they should do a commodity-wise analysis," Mr. Rajah said.

SPORT

Liverpool has one foot in the final

Villarreal's defensive game-plan goes up in smoke

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LIVERPOOL

Liverpool is on the brink of a third Champions League final in five seasons after breaking Villarreal's resistance to win the first leg of their semifinal 2-0 at Anfield on Wednesday.

Two goals in two minutes undid Villarreal boss Unai Emery's defensive game plan as Pervis Estupinan deflected Jordan Henderson's cross into his own net before Sadio Mane slotted in a second. The Reds remain on course for an unprecedented quadruple of Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup.

And barring a huge upset when the sides meet again in southern Spain in six days' time, Liverpool's season will finish in Paris on May 28.

Clinical: Mane, centre, pokes home Liverpool's second against Villarreal. • AFP

The population of Villarreal would fit inside Anfield but the 3,000 travelling support did their best to match the noise of the home support early on.

Emery's men followed the same tactic that saw them past Juventus and Bayern Munich by retreating behind the ball. However, the Yellow Submarine could barely lay a glove on Jurgen Klopp's men as Liverpool just had to bide its time to make its dominance count.

The English giant had to settle for a two-goal advantage, but it is yet to lose by a two-goal margin in 55 matches this season.

The result: Semi-final, first leg: Liverpool 2 (Estupinan 53-og, Mane 55) bt Villarreal 0.

India goes down to Korea

WJT

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Arnav Paparkar and Tanussh Ghildyal did almost everything right, but India missed five match points in the decisive doubles to lose 1-2 to Korea in the quarterfinals of the Asia-Oceania World Junior Tennis under-14 boys' tournament on Thursday.

Korea's Cho Se Hyuk and Do Gyeom were rather gutsy to wriggle out of trouble from being down 5-9 in the super tie-break and to prevail 6-4, 2-6, [12-10] which ensured a European ticket for the World Group.

Paparkar had given a strong start for the host, winning 6-3, 7-5 against Juchan Hwang, but Ghildyal was outplayed by Cho Se Hyuk. It was a heartbreaking loss for the host but the Koreans were rewarded for being brave in the end.

Thailand knocked out top seed Australia 2-1.

In the semifinals, Korea will play Kazakhstan, and Thailand will meet Japan.

The results (quarterfinals): Korea bt India 2-1 (Juchan Hwang lost to Arnav Paparkar 3-6, 5-7; Cho Se Hyuk bt Tanussh Ghildyal 6-3, 6-0; Cho Se Hyuk & Do Gyeom bt Tanussh & Arnav 6-4, 2-6, [12-10]).

Kazakhstan bt Hong Kong 2-0 (Damir Zhalgasbay bt Ngai Hoi Cheung 6-3, 6-1; Zangar Nurlanuly bt Siu Chi Nicholas Cheng 6-4, 6-1).

Thailand bt Australia 2-1 (Kunanan Pantaratorn bt Cruz Hewitt 6-4, 7-5; Phopthum Sriwong lost to Jake Dembo 4-6, 1-6; Kunanan & Phopthum bt Jake & Cruz 7-5, 3-6, [11-9]).

Japan bt Indonesia 2-1 (Ren Matsumura bt Rafalentino Ali Da Costa 6-1, 6-3; Ryo Tabata bt Rangga Wisnu Kresna Rafansyah 6-1, 6-4; Eito Komada & Ryo Tabata lost to Rafalentino & Muhammad Mouressi Urwah, walkover).

Siva Sridhar picks up a rich haul

KHELO VARSITIES

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Jain University swimmer Siva Sridhar shone bright by picking up a total of nine medals in the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) here on Thursday. Sridhar, with seven golds and two silvers, emerged as the most successful athlete of the games.

Teammate Srihari Nataraj won two gold medals on Thursday, in the 100m freestyle and 50m backstroke.

The results: Swimming (finals): Men: 100m freestyle: Srihari Nataraj (Jain) 50.98s (NMR, Old: 53.01s, Rudransh Mishra, 2020) **50m backstroke:** Srihari Nataraj (Jain) 26.10s (NMR, Old: 27.43s, Siddhant Sejwal, 2020); **100m breaststroke:** Danush Suresh (Anna) 1:03.36s (NMR, Old: 1:06.30s, Ansh Arora, 2020); **4x200m freestyle:** Jain (Srihari Nataraj, Sanjay Jayakrishnan, Siva Sridhar, Raj Relekar) 8:06.87 (NMR, Old: 8:16.04s, Panjab, 2020). **Football: Group stage: Women:** Vidyasagar bt Annamalai 3-0. **Tennis: Group stage: Men:** Kurukshetra bt Jain 2-1 (Rishi Reddy bt Varun Sharma 7-6(3), 6-3; Rohan Mittal bt Sai G 6-0, 6-0; Rohan Mittal & Varun Sharma bt Udit Pathak & Rishi Reddy 7-5, 6-0).

Hockey (group): Men: Bangalore bt Savitribai Phule 1-0.

BENGALURU LOCALS

PESCA posts thumping win over Panthers CA

Abhinav Nag (3/12), K. Adhrit (3/16) and Sharvesh (55 n.o.) combined to fashion PESCA's thumping nine-wicket win over Panthers CA in an under-14 category match in the Tiger Cup cricket tournament on Thursday.

The scores: U-14: Panthers CA 105 in 25.3 overs (Sriram Kasi 33, Govind Raju 25, Abhinav Nag 3/12, K. Adhrit 3/16) lost to PESCA 106/1 in 9.1 overs (Sharvesh 55 n.o.). **U-12:** Panthers CA 175/3 in 30 overs (Siddarth Ram 72, Pavandeep Bharadakane 55) bt PESCA 167 in 29.4 overs.

Sethu FC keeps winning

IWL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

Sethu FC beat Kickstart FC 2-1 for its fourth straight win in the Indian Women's League here on Thursday.

Other results: SSB Women FC 3 bt ARA FC 2 ; Gokulam FC 6 bt PIFA 1.

Kuldeep and Mustafizur star in Capitals' win

They share seven wickets between them to restrict Knight Riders to 146; Powell takes the Delhi side past the finish line

IPL 2022

S. DINAKAR
MUMBAI

Confidence is everything. So is banishing the demon of self-doubt.

Overlooked in the eleven by Kolkata Knight Riders last season, Kuldeep Yadav was a shadow of the bowler he could be.

Now, guaranteed a regular place by the Delhi Capitals and regaining his belief and mojo, Kuldeep is a different customer with his teasing left-arm Chinaman bowling.

In a duel within the larger Tata-IPL contest at the Wankhede Stadium, Kuldeep scalped four, bowling with skill and deception, for Capitals against his old team Knight Riders on Thursday.

Striking it rich: Splendid spells from Kuldeep (4/14) and Mustafizur (3/18) put the skids on KKR's innings. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Game-changer

Kuldeep tormented with his flight and struck with his turn. He was the game-changer.

Chasing 147 on a surface where the ball was not quite coming on, Capitals nailed the pursuit but not before a few anxious moments.

When the powerful Rovman Powell pulled Tim Southee for the maximum, the face-off was going to end only one way.

The West Indian's 16-ball unbeaten 33 sealed a four-wicket win for Delhi.

Earlier, Prithvi Shaw fell early, his leading edge acrobatically held by bowler Umesh Yadav.

David Warner (42), collecting his runs through short-arm jabs, cuts, firm drives and whips, kept Delhi on track.

Warner waded into Rana's part-time spin and things appeared ominous for KKR.

However, the rejuvenated Umesh removed Warner with a well-directed bouncer.

The free-stroking Lalit Yadav fell to a delivery spinning into him from Sunil Narine and Pant nicked Umesh to 'keeper Indrajith. Axar Patel struck some lusty blows including an upper-cut six off Andre Russell for a 17-ball 24 before being run out.

Earlier, KKR, inserted, progressed to 146 for nine riding on a 34-ball 57 from Nitish Rana. The left-handed Rana opened his shoulders towards the end. A blistering

Innings scan

KKR		DC
40	Dots	46
10	Fours	14
4	Sixes	5
29/2	PP	47/2
7.30	RR	7.89

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Aaron Finch b Sakariya 3 *(7b)*, Venkatesh Iyer c Sakariya b Axar 6 *(12b)*, Shreyas Iyer c Pant b Kuldeep 42 *(37b, 4x4)*, B. Indrajith c Powell b Kuldeep 6 *(8b)*, Sunil Narine lbw b Kuldeep 0 *(1b)*, Nitish Rana c Sakariya b Mustafizur 57 *(34b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Andre Russell st. Pant b Kuldeep 0 *(3b)*, Rinku Singh c Powell b Mustafizur 23 *(16b, 3x4)*, Umesh Yadav (not out) 0 *(1b)*, Tim Southee b Mustafizur 0 *(1b)*, Harshit Rana (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-5, w-3, nb-1): 9; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 146.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Finch, 1.3 overs), 2-22 (Venkatesh, 4.3), 3-35 (Indrajith, 7.2), 4-35 (Narine, 7.3), 5-83 (Shreyas, 13.1), 6-83 (Russell, 13.4), 7-145 (Rinku, 19.2), 8-146 (Nitish, 19.4), 9-146 (Southee, 19.5).

DELHI CAPITALS BOWLING

Mustafizur 4-0-18-3, Sakariya 3-0-17-1, Shardul 3-0-32-0, Axar 4-0-28-1, Kuldeep 3-0-14-4, Lalit 3-0-32-0

DELHI CAPITALS

Prithvi Shaw c & b Umesh 0 *(1b)*, David Warner c Narine b Umesh 42 *(26b, 8x4)*, Mitchell Marsh c Venkatesh b Harshit 13 *(7b, 2x4)*, Lalit Yadav lbw b Narine 22 *(29b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Rishabh Pant c Indrajith b Umesh 2 *(5b)*, Rovman Powell (not out) 33 *(16b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Axar Patel run out 24 *(17b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shardul Thakur (not out) 8 *(14b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-2, nb-1): 6; Total (for six wkts. in 19 overs): 150.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Shaw, 0.1), 2-17 (Marsh, 1.3), 3-82 (Warner, 9.3), 4-84 (Lalit, 10.6), 5-84 (Pant, 11.1), 6-113 (Axar, 15.0)

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Umesh 4-0-24-3, Harshit 3-0-24-1, Southee 4-0-31-0, Narine 4-0-19-1, Nitish 1-0-14-0, Russell 1-0-14-0, Venkatesh 1-0-14-0, Shreyas 1-0-7-0.

Toss: Capitals. **MoM:** Kuldeep. *Capitals won by four wkts. with six balls to spare.*

Next assignment

DC: May 1 vs. **LSG**
Wankhede, 3.30 p.m.

KKR: May 2 vs. **RR**
Wankhede, 7.30 p.m.

on-drive off Shardul Thakur was a top shot.

But then, Mustafizur Rahman bowled with control and variations at the death to deny KKR.

Earlier, It was all Kuldeep. He deceived Indrajith in flight and consumed the left-handed Sunil Narine with a wrong 'un in his first spell.

Kuldeep returned to have Shreyas Iyer (42) stroking crisply till that point, taken brilliantly off the under-edge by Pant and nail the dangerous Russell stumped with a delicious delivery of flight and turn.

Kuldeep is on song again.

Rahul and Mayank face off for a change

In-form teams LSG and PBKS will look to maintain momentum

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

- Rahul has slammed two tons and a fifty and is the second-highest scorer this season
- Mayank and Bairstow must spend more time at the wicket

Two friends from Karnataka – K.L. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal – will walk out to the middle together at Pune's MCA Stadium on Friday night, not to open an innings like they often do, but for the toss as opposing captains.

Mayank has taken over from Rahul at Punjab Kings, while the latter has moved to Lucknow Super Giants.

Rahul has slammed two hundreds and a fifty and is the second-highest scorer this season, behind Rajasthan Royals' Jos Buttler. His opening partner Quinton de Kock and Deepak Hooda have notched up two fifties each and will be followed in the order by hard-hitters like Marcus Stoinis and Krunal Pandya.

The bowling has been spearheaded by Avesh Khan, but he missed the last game against Mumbai Indians with a niggle. The attack also features the spin of Ravi Bishnoi and Krunal and the pace of Jason Holder and Dushmantha Chameera.

They all will be particularly keen to ensure that Punjab's leading scorers Shikhar Dhawan and Liam Livingstone do not stay long at the wicket. Mayank and Jonny Bairstow need to spend more time there, though. South African quick Kagiso Rabada and leg-spinner Rahul Chahar have been the team's most successful bowlers, with 19 wickets between them.

Both the sides are in form too. LSG defeated Mumbai Indians in its last match, while on the following day PBKS beat Chennai Super Kings. And just two points separate the teams. From eight matches, LSG has 10 and PBKS eight.

TODAY'S MATCH

PUNJAB KINGS vs. LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

MCA STADIUM, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
FIRST MEETING

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Umran and Tewatia — clear and present danger

Pacer's speed and skill impress; batter has all the shots in the book

S. DINAKAR
MUMBAI

There are moments in the careers of even seasoned journalists when you just watch in admiration at the sheer beauty of what's unfolding on the field.

Blistering spell

Umran Malik's blistering spell of speed, skill and precision on a batting paradise on Wednesday night in the Tata-IPL was one such occasion.

The run-up, the load-up, the explosive release and the scary pace generated signalled a star was born. India needs to look no further for its pace bowling enforcer in World T20.

The Sunrisers paceman showed his more illustrious compatriots how it is done on such heart-breaking tracks. You just beat them with air speed. His rapid yorkers with swing and accuracy defeated the batters for speed. And he also softened them up with his vicious short-pitched deliveries.

Firebrand: Umran came up with one of the best bowling displays in the IPL on Wednesday, while Tewatia's big hitting under pressure carried his team through. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Shubman Gill, Wriddhiman Saha and David Miller, all internationals, heard the death knell of the timber. The 22-year-old Umran's five for 25 has to be among the great fast bowling displays in the IPL; and all this amidst a mountain of runs when one team made 195 and the other chased it down.

Umran wasn't the only hero as Gujarat Titans' Rahul Tewatia, the left-hander with the right attitude, conjured a gem, a 21-ball unbeaten 40. A power-hitter, the stocky Tewatia has the knack of collecting his initial runs almost unnoticed before launching into the bowling, making light of the asking rate.

Tremendous bat speed

And the wristy customer with tremendous bat speed has all the shots, the pick-up stroke, the booming straight hit, the ferocious cut and slash between point and cover, the pull and the ramp shot. Importantly, Tewatia, who has destroyed careers of a few Caribbean pacemen in the IPL, is ice cool in temperament.

With M.S. Dhoni having retired from international cricket, Tewatia can be the new finisher. Umran and Tewatia surely pose a clear and present danger to the opposition.

'Idea was right, execution awry'

SRH coach Moody on Jansen's expensive final over

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Whether in victory or defeat, Tom Moody speaks with clarity.

After an agonising night of fortune swings in the IPL game on Wednesday that saw his side finishing on the wrong side of the result against the new entrant Gujarat Titans, the Sunrisers Hyderabad coach did not mince his words.

Last-over blues

On seamer Marco Jansen not being able to defend 22 runs in the final over of the innings, Moody said, "What he wanted to bowl, the idea was right. But the execution was not quite there.

"Marco [Jansen] did not bowl in the areas he wanted to. Having said this, the batting was brilliant in putting away these deliveries."

Moody recalled the last over of the Sunrisers innings when Shashank Singh hit three successive sixes after Jansen had cleared the ropes earlier in the over.

The Sunrisers coach said, "We saw Lockie Ferguson, an international bowler, going for four sixes in the final over. The same thing happened to us when we bowled."

Dangerous batter

The coach further said, "Rashid [Khan] is a dangerous batter down the order who can hit the ball into unusual areas."

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	8	7	1	14	0.371
Rajasthan Royals	8	6	2	12	0.561
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	5	3	10	0.600
Lucknow Super Giants	8	5	3	10	0.334
Royal Challengers Bangalore	9	5	4	10	-0.572
Delhi Capitals	8	4	4	8	0.695
Punjab Kings	8	4	4	8	-0.419
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	6	6	-0.006
Chennai Super Kings	8	2	6	4	-0.538
Mumbai Indians	8	0	8	0	-1.000

AFTER THE DC-KKR MATCH ON APRIL 28

Stokes named England's Test captain

Stokes. • REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes was named England's new Test captain on Thursday, replacing Joe Root, who stood down earlier this month after a string of painful defeats.

The 30-year-old, who served as Root's deputy, was the overwhelming favourite to take charge of a struggling team that has won just one of its past 17 matches.

Stokes praised his friend and predecessor in a statement. "I am honoured to be given the chance to lead the England Test team," he added.

"I want to thank Joe for everything he has done for English cricket and for always being a great ambassador for the sport all across the world."

Bengaluru to host knockouts

Quarterfinals to be played from June 4

RANJI TROPHY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mumbai will face Uttarakhand and Karnataka will take on Uttar Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals to be played in Bengaluru from June 4.

Bengal will square off against Jharkhand, while Punjab is pitted against Madhya Pradesh in the other quarterfinals. The final will be played from June 20 to 24.

Venue dilemma

Despite Bengaluru having five grounds with First Class stadiums, it will be interesting to see if the schedule is further tweaked to ensure the final is played at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the only broadcast-friendly facility.

The Chinnaswamy Stadium is scheduled to host India's T20I versus South Africa on June 19. With the final announced for June 20, either it will have to be postponed by a couple of days or be played at a smaller venue with digital streaming arrangements.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah has written to the teams with the itinerary and staging association guidelines. According to the guidelines, accessed by *The Hindu*, the knockouts will be played in a soft biosecure bubble.

Just like the Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy and the senior women's T20 championship, the Ranji matches will see the teams being given the option of players sharing the room. Ever since the pandemic hit, all the domestic cricket was played with players being prohibited from sharing rooms.

The schedule

- **Quarterfinals:** June 4-8; **Semifinals:** June 12-16; **Final:** June 20-24
- **The draw:** QF1: Bengal vs. Jharkhand; QF2: Mumbai vs. Uttarakhand; QF3: Karnataka vs. Uttar Pradesh; QF4: Punjab vs. Madhya Pradesh
- **Semifinals:** Winner of QF 1 vs. winner of QF 4 & winner of QF 2 vs. winner of QF 3

Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag pair advance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

P.V. Sindhu advanced to the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Championships, beating Yue Yann Jaslyn Hooi of Singapore 21-16, 21-16 here on Thursday. The men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also made it to the last eight.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men's singles: K. Srikanth lost to Weng Hong Yang (Chn) 16-21, 21-17, 17-21. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Akira Koga & Taichi Saito (Jpn). **Women's singles:** P.V. Sindhu bt Yue Yann Jaslyn Hooi (Sgp) 21-16, 21-16; Saina Nehwal lost to Wang Zhi Yi 21-12, 7-21, 13-21 (Chn).

Carlsen joins Praggnanandhaa in the lead

The Indian talent loses to Duda in the penultimate round

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

R. Praggnanandhaa tried too hard and slipped badly to suffer a 0.5-2.5 defeat to Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda and found Magnus Carlsen for company in the lead after six rounds of the Oslo Esports Cup online rapid chess tournament in Oslo on Wednesday.

With a round to go, Carlsen defeated Eric Hansen to join Praggnanandhaa at 12 points. The victorious duo of Duda and Le Quang Liem moved to 11 points to raise visions of an exciting finish.

Just like the previous rounds, Praggnanandhaa was not required to play the fourth game of the best-of-four rapid encounters. The opener looked evenly poised till the 40th move but Praggnanandhaa overreached and Duda punished him over the next 25 moves.

In the second, Praggnanandhaa's idea of sacrificing a queenside pawn on the 24th move backfired. Duda caught his rival in a checkmating net in 37 moves. Facing two must-win games to stay alive, Praggnanandhaa was lucky to escape a third straight loss.

The results (sixth round): Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 11) bt R. Praggnanandhaa (12); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 12) bt Eric Hansen (Can, 3); Anish Giri (Ned, 6) lost to Le Quang Liem (Vie, 11); Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 9) lost to Shakhriyar Memedyarov (Aze, 8). **Last-round pairings:** Praggnanandhaa-Giri; Memedyarov-Carlsen; Quang-Foreest; Hansen-Duda.

Kerala enters final in style

Jesin nets five in thrashing of Karnataka

Star performer: Jesin, No. 10, slots in one of his five goals for Kerala. • SAKEER HUSSAIN

SANTOSH TROPHY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANJERI

The full house at the Malappuram District Sports Complex Stadium could not have asked for more as host Kerala entered the final of the Santosh Trophy National football championship in style.

The former champion thrashed Karnataka 7-3. T.K. Jesin, who came on as a substitute in the opening half, was the architect of the resounding win.

He netted five goals, including an old-fashioned hat-trick. His show began after Karnataka gave Kerala a scare, taking the lead in the 25th minute through Sudheer Kotikela, off a superb square pass into the goal area from N. Solaimalai.

Jesin found the equaliser just ten minutes later for Kerala, as he beat Karnataka's advancing goal-keeper Kevin Koshy with a neatly angled shot after receiving an excellent long ball from Muhammad Rashid into the box.

Jesin then struck twice inside the next 10 minutes. An injury-time goal from Shighil made the scoreline 4-1 at half-time.

Nine minutes into the second half, P. Kamalesh gave a glimmer of hope as he made it 2-4 with a long-ranger. If Karnataka thought it could make a match of it, it was proved wrong, as Jesin scored two more goals; there was one from Arjun Jayaraj too.

In the final to be played on May 2, Kerala will take on the winner of Friday's semi-final between Bengal and Manipur.

The result: Kerala 7 (T.K. Jesin 35, 42, 45, 56 & 74, Shighil 45+1, Arjun Jayaraj 62) bt Karnataka 3 (Sudheer Kotikela 25, P. Kamalesh 54, N. Solaimalai 71). **Today's match:** Bengal v Manipur (semifinal) 8.30 p.m.

LIVE TELECAST

Khelo India Games: DD Sports, 8.30 a.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
La Liga: MTV, Voot Select & Jio TV, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Inter rues 'keeper's howler

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MILAN

Inter Milan failed to claim top spot in Serie A on Wednesday after an incredible howler from reserve goalkeeper Ionut Radu consigned his team to a 2-1 defeat at Bologna.

In the 81st minute, with the teams locked at one apiece, Radu somehow hooked the ball towards his own net when trying to pass it out, allowing Nicola Sansone to tap in a goal which hands AC Milan the advantage in the title race.

Champion Inter, which had taken the lead in the third minute with a powerful strike from Ivan Perisic, stay two points behind league leader Milan with four matches remaining.

The results: Atalanta 4 (Muriel 18-pen, De Roon 23, Pasalic 78, Muriel 84-pen) drew with Torino 4 (Sanabria 4, Lukic 36-pen, 63-pen, Freuler 68-og); Bologna 2 (Arnautovic 28, Sansone 81) bt Inter Milan 1 (Perisic 3); Fiorentina 0 lost to Udinese 4 (Mari 12, Deulofeu 36, Walace 90+1, Udogie 90+4).

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